FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 DECEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

The Israeli Navy shelled a PLO base 1 km north of Tripoli harbor on the night of 8-9 December, scoring "accurate hits," the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio. The bombardment came after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir urged the UN secretary general to call off arrangements to help the "terrorists" leave Tripoli in UN-sponsored ships, according to the radio.

PLO official statements on the attack, reported by Radio Monte Carlo and Beirut radio, said the Palestinians repulsed an Israe.. landing attempt but sustained four casualities from shelling by an Israeli warship. A Fatah spokesman warned that the Israeli action may be the prelude to a "large-scale offensive" and said the Israelis are blockading Tripoli to prevent the departure of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's forces. He said Fatah has contacted the UN secretary general, Greece, France, and Italy for assistance and called on Syria and Libya to lift the siege of Tripoli.

PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir, in remarks reported by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio, said the Palestinian fighters will leave with all their weapons aboard Greek ships scheduled to arrive on 9 December. A Fatah spokesman cited by ANSA said the PLO has asked France and Italy to provide a military escort for 'Arafat's men in their voyage to Algiers and North Yemen. France has already assured its assistance, he said, while contacts are under way with Italy.

An Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by KUNA denied that a formal request for a naval escourt had been received from the PLO.

Turbul Voice of the Palestinian Revolution — the Fatah dissident radio based a few miles from Tripoli — did not broadcast its normally scheduled newscasts early on 9 December.

Lebanon

Salim in Damascus — Foreign Minister Elie Salim began talks in Damascus on 9 December with his counterpart 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Beirut radio reported. Salim told the Chamber of Deputies the previous day that he would discuss the question of troop withdrawals with Khaddam and expressed hope that the "new page" in relations with Syria would enable obstacles to be overcome, the radio noted.

Security Situation — U.S. Marines again exchanged fire with gunmen in southern Beirut in clashes which began late on 8 December and resumed early the next morning, according to Beirut radio. The Lebanese Army likewise engaged in "violent" clashes in the Suq al-Gharb area and eastern areas of Beirut came under artillery and rocket fire, the radio reported.

In southern Lebanon, an attack on an IDF position north of Tyre by the "Lebanese national resistance" caused around 10 Israeli casualties, according to KUNA. However, the incident was not mentioned by monitored Israeli media.

Israel

West Bank — An Arab girl from Nabulus was shot dead and her sister was severely wounded when passengers in an Israeli vehicle being stoned by youths opened fire, Jerusalem radio reported. Israeli military authorities subsequently imposed a curfew on the Nabulus casbah, the radio said. Meanwhile, five leading West Bank and East Jerusalem Arab personalities condemned the recent attack on an Israeli bus in Jerusalem, the radio noted. The five are the deposed mayors of Ramallah and Hebron, the chairman of the East Jerusalem Electric Company, and the publishers of the newspaper *AL-FAJR*.

Sharon — Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon has urged Prime Minister Shamir to "take steps" against U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis because Lewis had demanded Sharon's ouster from his former post of defense minister, Jerusalem radio reported.

Egypt

Egypt negotiated with Israel in good faith and has respected the outcome of those negotiations "in letter and spirit," but Israel's behavior and policy have complicated relations between the two countries, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali stated in an interview with *AL-AKHBAR* reported by MENA. As for the Arabs, they would achieve their objectives if they adopted an attitude of solidarity similar to that which prevailed during the October 1973 war, he asserted.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad received a cable stressing the USSR's intent to strengthen bilateral ties and support Syria in accordance with the treaty of friendship and cooperation, SANA reported. Meanwhile, Al-Asad, in a letter to Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, expressed concern about the escalation of tension in the Middle East and hope that Italy will undertake new initiatives aimed at regenerating dialogue among the sides in the conflict, according to ANSA.

Iran-Iraq War

A communique broadcast by Tehran radio said Iranian pilots shot down an Iraqi Sukhoy-22 in the Gulf and captured the pilot while IRNA reported that a Foreign Ministry spokesman "categorically denied" an Iraqi claim regarding destruction of six Iranian naval targets and downing of an Iranian Air Force fighter.

OPEC Meeting

OPEC oil ministers meeting in Geneva agreed to maintain the same oil marker price and production ceiling fixed by the March 1983 London agreement, Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani announced at the end of the 8 December session in remarks reported by AFP. He said the ministers had made a "serious commitment to adhere" to the London agreement, which lowered the marker price to $29 a barrel and set a production ceiling of 17.5 million barrels a day. While Yamani said the ministers have set "no ceiling" on Saudi production, Iranian Petroleum Minister Mohammad Gharazi said the Saudis should act as a "swing producer" and reduce their output, AFP noted. Earlier, Tehran radio reported that Gharazi "strongly defended" Iran's proposal to raise the marker price to $34 a barrel.

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Israeli Bombardment Kills 1, Wounds 3 in Tripoli
NC090720 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Fatah issued a military statement in Tripoli today saying that an Israeli warship shelled pro-'Arafat forces in Tripoli port at dawn today. The statement added that the warship, escorted by five naval boats, helicopters, and warplanes, began the shelling at a time when the naval boats were approaching the coast in a landing attempt.

The statement further said that the fedayeen preparing to leave Tripoli following a 1-month siege by the rebels fired at the boats and forced them to retreat to the high sea. The statement added that one fedayeen was killed and three others were wounded in the shelling. It further said that Israeli boats and helicopters were still roaming the northern Lebanese coast 4 hours after the shelling.

'Arafat's aides say they had expected an Israeli attack since last Tuesday when they claimed responsibility for the explosion in a bus in Jerusalem which killed four Israelis and wounded 43 others.

Prelude to 'Large-Scale Offensive'
JN090825 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, the Fatah command spokesman, announced today that Israeli gunboats are blockading Tripoli to prevent the pro-'Arafat fighters from leaving the city and that the Fatah movement considers the Israeli attack that took place at dawn today to be a prelude to a large-scale offensive the nature of which has not yet been ascertained. The Palestinian spokesman said that the Fatah command has contacted UN Secretary General Perez de Cullar and asked him to convey to the Security Council the details of the situation that resulted from the Israeli blockade. The Fatah movement has also asked the Greek, French, and Italian authorities to help lift the Israeli blockade.

The Palestinian spokesman also called on the Syrian and Libyan forces to lift the land siege they are imposing on Tripoli. He asked them to extend assistance to the pro-'Arafat forces that are confronting the Israeli aggression and to stand by the PLO leadership.

Spokesman: France, Greece 'To Cover' Withdrawal
NC081315 Paris AFP in English 1258 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli, Lebanon, Dec 8 (AFP) — France and Greece have agreed to provide "cover" for the departure of Yasir 'Arafat's forces from this northern port, an 'Arafat spokesman said today. The spokesman, Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, did not confirm reports that the Palestine Liberation Organization loyalists would leave tomorrow. He said only that the estimated 4,000 troops would depart within two weeks, and that certain technical details on the departures (?have still) to be completed. He did, however, say that four Greek ferries and two freighters would help evacuate the fighters. Greece has said that four ferries bearing the United Nations flag would arrive to pick up (?the) PLO tomorrow.

Mr. 'Abd ar-Rahman also said that Italy was being asked for what he termed "cover" for the departing troops. He did not say what type of cover was envisaged.

Concerning the loyalists' destinations, he said only that two of the ferries would go to Tunis, a five-day sea journey, and that the two others would go to North Yemen, about 10 days away. He did not say where the freighters would go.

Mr. 'Abd ar-Rahman said the troops would leave with both their personal weapons and their heavy artillery, to "avoid giving the Syrians an excuse to invade Tripoli" after they left. This appeared to be at odds with the reports of the terms of a Syrian-Saudi mediation agreement, under which the fighters would leave only with their personal weapons.

'Technical Problems' Cause Delay
NC081634 Paris AFP in English 1556 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Tripoli, Northern Lebanon, Dec 8 (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasir 'Arafat said here today there were only "technical problems" remaining over the planned sea evacuation of his fighters from this besieged city. He said he had sent a message to Damascus to Rashid Karami, the political leader directing the evacuation, concerning points still under discussion.

The question of whether the Palestinians would have a multinational escort on leaving Tripoli had not yet been settled, Mr 'Arafat said. "I can't give details," he said, "because in the discussion there is not only me but the Saudis, the Syrians, and Mr Karami."

Italians May Escort 'Arafat
AU081542 Rome ANSA in English 1524 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] (ANSA) Beirut, December 8 — It is likely that an Italian warship will escort PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and his loyalist troops from Lebanon to Algiers, PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman told "ANSA" today. 'Abd ar-Rahman said the PLO had called on France and Italy to guarantee an escort for the Fedayeen that are preparing to withdraw from Tripoli in northern Lebanon following statements made yesterday by former Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon that "'Arafat must not leave Tripoli alive". France has already assured its assistance, while contacts with Italy are still under way.

According to well-informed sources, the need for a double escort stems from the fact that some of 'Arafat's troops will be going to Algeria while others are headed for North Yemen. A French vessel could escort the convoy to North Yemen, while an Italian ship would accompany 'Arafat to Algiers.

The PLO fighters' pullout will probably take place between Saturday and Monday. One of the four Greek ships that will

transport most of the Fedayeen arrived this morning in Tripoli harbor, the others will arrive by tomorrow night.

According to 'Abd ar-Rahman, "a few days should suffice for preparations". The spokesman confirmed that 'Arafat has agreed to the evacuation plan drafted by former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami and "he will leave with his fighters".

'Arafat's first stop will be Algiers, where he will review the one thousand-odd guerrillas freed last week by Israel in exchange for six Israeli soldiers held by the PLO. The PLO leader will then go to Jordan to discuss with King Husayn the possibility of resuming a dialogue on solving the Palestinian question that takes into account the "Reagan plan" on a confederated Jordanian-Palestinian state.

Sources of the Italian contingent in Lebanon said here that for the time being no decision has been taken on providing an escort ship for 'Arafat, but added that the operation is feasible with only a few hours' notice. Two Italian ships are currently in Lebanese waters as back-up for the Italian soldiers in the multinational peace force.

Further ANSA Report

AU082021 Rome ANSA in English 1946 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpts] (ANSA) Beirut, December 8 — PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman told ANSA today that his organization and the Arab League have asked the Italian Government to supply a warship to escort PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and his loyalist troops from Lebanon to Algiers. 'Abd ar-Rahman also said that the PLO is seeking from the Italian government a civilian ship to evacuate 64 wounded Fedayeen from Tripoli to Cyprus.

'Arafat today said that "there are still some points to be agreed upon before leaving" adding though that "it is not a matter of major difficulties but only technical aspects of the operation". It seems that 'Arafat fears reprisals against some of his followers who will remain in Lebanon and he is seeking assurances on the matter from Rashid Karami, former Lebanese prime minister, entrusted by Syria and Saudi Arabia to arrange the PLO evacuation.

According to the PLO spokesman 'Abd ar-Rahman the Fedayeen will leave Tripoli "with all their arms". Today, the Fedayeen scoured Tripoli shops to make last-minute purchases before leaving.

Sources of the Italian contingent in Lebanon said here that for the time being no decision has been taken on providing an escort ship for 'Arafat, but added that the operation is feasible with only a few hours' notice. Two Italian warships, the *"Sagittario"* and the *"Intrepido"* are currently in Lebanese waters as back-up for the Italian soldiers and could be made available.

Request to Italy Denied

LD091226 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1148 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Rome, 9 Dec (KUNA) — An Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman affirmed to KUNA this morning that Italy "has received no formal request from the PLO for the dispatch of Italian naval units to guard the ships that will ferry Palestinian fighters from Tripoli to other Arab ports." The spokesman said: "We have heard nothing other than the statements and news coming from Lebanon."

An Italian Defense Ministry spokesman told KUNA today that "the Italian defense Ministry has no knowledge of such a request. We normally act following a decision by the Foreign Ministry."

The PLO representative in Rome, 'Abd al-Fattah al-Kalkili, in an interview with KUNA denied that the PLO had asked for Italian warships to guard the Palestinians during their evacuation from northern Lebanon. Al-Kalkili added: "But we might submit such a request shortly."

Reports from Tripoli quoted PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman as saying that the PLO had asked France and Italy to provide a naval escort and that the PLO command is still awaiting Italy's official response to this request.

PLO's An-Nashashibi on Post-Tripoli Stage

JN091204 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Dec 83 pp 1, 17

[Text] Amman — Muhammad Abu Ghawsh dispatch — Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi, secretary of the PLO Executive Committee, has stated that it is necessary to have a serious stand in the face of the events through which the PLO and the Palestinian revolution have been passing since May.

In a statement to *AD-DUSTUR*, An-Nashashibi talked about the post-Tripoli stage. He said that what happened requires reinforcing the alliance among the Palestinian resistance factions that have jointly faced the ordeal, reviewing all events from the departure from Beirut to the post-Tripoli stage, and setting up political and organizational programs capable of preserving the PLO's unity and the safety of its political course in accordance with the PNC's resolutions and its political and organizational prorgams.

He added: The PLO Executive Committee and all of its institutions must resume their responsibilities. Regarding the PNC meeting, An-Nashashibi said: This meeting must be preceded by good preparation, a consensus on the objectives of struggle in the coming stage, and a plan for future action after all the lessons of the previous stage have been absorbed.

Replying to a question on solving the internal Fatah problem, he said: I underline the importance of abiding by the principle of not resorting to arms to solve differences either between the resistance factions or within the ranks of a certain faction. We

must use dialogue and political struggle to achieve the aspired reform in the march of the Palestinian revolution, the PLO, and all of its institutions. He added: I see that the differences within Fatah must be solved by a Palestinian effort and within the framework of the Palestinian institutions. After that, the Arab effort may gratefully complete the Palestinian effort. I suggest that the PLO Executive Committee, the brothers the general secretaries, the six-man committee, and a number of PNC members hold an urgent joint meeting after the departure from Tripoli in order to review all the efforts that have been exerted so far to end Fatah's internal differences. This meeting should also work to resume these efforts and to discuss the suggestions that have been presented to acheive a democratic reform and preserve PLO unity.

Replying to a question on reports that some Arab countries called for a change in the PLO's leadership, he said: I want to stress that only our people, represented by the PNC and other militant institutions, have the right to elect their leadership. Our masses both inside and outside the occupied homeland have voiced their adherence to the PLO's legitimate leadership.

Regarding the impact of the Tripoli events on the PLO, An-Nashashibi said: The events in Tripoli have harmed the PLO's respect and status. These events were about to sweep away some of the PLO's achievements. However, I am confident that the PLO will soon use all methods to resume the struggle. It will soon resume its influential activity in the Arab and international arenas in order to regain what it has lost during this critical stage in the history of the Palestinian struggle and to further bolster its position as a leader of our people's struggle and as their sole legitimate representative.

Asked about the duties and responsibilities of the coming Arab summit conference and the PLO's expectations for the conference, he said: The Arab summit conference should formulate a strategy for Arab struggle in the coming stage so that the Arab nation can take the upper hand in action to liberate all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories and restore the Palestinian people's continuing national rights, including their right to repatriate to their homeland and establish their own independent state. He added: The summit should rebuild Arab solidarity on the basis of confroting the U.S. designs and the continued Israeli aggression against the Arab nation. In this regard, the summit should also adopt a courageous stand on the new U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance agreement.

An-Nashashibi asked the conference to review the accomplishments of the seven-man committee formed by the Fes summit conference and to draw up a plan for influential action on the Arab and international levels as a prelude to an international conference that will discuss and define measures that would enable the Palestinian people to exercise their international rights and bring about a just settlement for the Palestinian cause.

In conclusion, An-Nashashibi noted that the Arab summit conference is asked to draw up a plan of action on the Arab, Islamic, and international levels to end the Iraqi-Iranian war.

'Arafat Prepared To Resume Talks With Husayn

LD081534 Kuwait KUNA in English 1333 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Paris, Dec 7 (KUNA) — The leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Yasir 'Arafat, said that he was in favour of the "Jordanian option" and was prepared to resume the dialogue with King Husayn of Jordan. In an interview with the independent left-wing daily newspaper *"LIBERATION"*, released Thursday, 'Arafat, who described his relations with the Jordanian monarch as "good", declared that he would like to reach an accord with him.

"Syria is important for the Palestinian revolution for geo-political reasons, Jordan for Geo-political and demographic reasons", he said pointing out that about one and a quarter million of Palestinians were living on the east bank of the Jordan River, three quarters of a million on the West Bank and that Palestine and Jordan share some 600 kilometres of frontiers. 'Arafat indicated that when the dissidence, which he called "the Trojan horse", emerged officially last May, he was accused of "selling off" the Palestinian revolution by negotiating an accord with King Husayn of Jordan.

Palestinians and Jordanians failed to reach an agreement last May because of a divergence, which has not yet been solved, he said.

Asked what were the present chances for an accord with King Husayn, 'Arafat replied that he was the leader of the PLO "elected democratically on the basis of a political programme which calls, among other things, for the continuation of the dialogue leading to a Jordan-Palestinian confederation based on the decisions of the Palestinian National Council and that of the Fes summit".

Asked whether the PLO could have had another policy than the siege of Beirut and that of Tripoli, chosen between the "Syrian option" and the "Jordanian option" instead of hesitating between the two, the PLO chairman replied that it was not possible.

The U.S. administration, he went on, has decided not to recognise the PLO and the Palestinian people unless we accept the Reagan proposal for an "Autonomous administration", and by that way the Camp David Accords. "We cannot say yes, neither to this nor to that. Under these conditions, did we have any other choice than to defend ourselves and defend our people?", he said.

He admitted that the fighting in Tripoli was hard and difficult, but noted that the PLO had achieved two "important aims in spite of the losses". The first aim, he said, was the reinforcement of the Palestinian people's unity around the PLO, in the occupied territories as well as outside. The second one, he went on, was the end of the dissidence within the PLO.

"History will write that Sharon drew me out of Beirut, but who will be the Arab Sharon who will drive me out of Lebanon", he asked. The PLO leader said that Tripoli was not a victory, "only a stage of the long walk" and predicted that 1984 will be a terrible year, "the volcano will clean up everything".

'Arafat Thanks Fahd for N. Lebanon Efforts

LD081030 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0915 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Dec (SPA) — PLO Executive committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat has praised the Kingdom's stances toward the recent events in northern Lebanon. He expressed thanks to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz for his interest in and endevors for a cease-fire. He also expressed gratitude to the stance taken by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy premier, and commander of the National Guard, concerning recent developments on the Palestinian arena in the statement his royal highness made during his recent visit to Kuwait.

In a statement published today by *AR-RIYAD* 'Arafat emphasized the continuation of the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy and said that his departure from Tripoli does not signify anything but further commitment to the line of struggle. He described Jordan's attitude toward the Palestinian cause and the PLO as one of commitment in accordance with the National Council resolutions with regard to the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue and with the agreement reached at the recent Fes summit. He also stressed the anxiousness of Palestinian legitimacy to establish close relations with Syria.

Source Denies 'Arafat Met Rif'at al-Asad

JN082109 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Tunis, 8 Dec (INA) — A responsible Palestinian source has denied that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat recently met with Rif'at al-Asad, brother of the head of the Syrian regime. In a statement to INA here today, the Palestinian source described reports on the topic published by a Lebanese paper as groundless.

On the other hand, the Palestinian source said that as far as his health is concerned, Hafiz al-Asad is finished. He said the Palestinian command has irrefutable information that Al-Asad is unable to see and speak due to the rise of the sugar content in his blood, as he suffers from diabetes, and due to the stroke that affected his leg and later his heart and brain.

The Palestinian source pointed out that the team of Swiss specialists supervising Al-Asad's treatment confirmed in their final report that his condition is hopeless. He also stressed that Rif'at al-Asad is the most probable successor to his brother, Hafiz al-Asad, as he is now in control and is running affairs in a manner that will consolidate his position inside and outside the Syrian Armed Forces.

Official on Future Operations Against Israel

JN081036 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Dec 83 pp 1, 19

[Text] Amman — A ranking Palestinian official has spoken to *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* about the daring operation carried out by the Palestinian resistance in Jerusalem, inside the occupied territories, the day before yesterday. He said: The explosion that shook Jerusalem the day before yesterday, which occurred after a relatively lengthy lull in Palestinian armed operations inside the occupied territories, is significant for more than one reason.

Depending on the security situation, and as a result of the escalation of Zionist repressive measures which restrict the movements of our strugglers and people, this explosion will be followed by further operations of similar size and magnitude.

The Palestinian official said that the significance and dimensions of the Jerusalem operation show that, first, this explosion represents a political stand. The PLO has, in the past period, been trying to reduce its armed operations inside the occupied territories, confining them to attacks on soldiers and settlers, in an attempt to avoid so-called "special" and "isolated" retaliatory threats and attacks. The occupation forces launched these attacks and threats against our masses in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon despite the fact that the PLO had provided opportunities for political moves during the past period, in particular the Palestinian move on the European and U.S. front which had advised us not to carry out armed operations. This advice came either directly from our friends, particularly our European friends, or indirectly.

Second, this operation proves that the armed cells of the PLO bases inside the occupied territories have been rebuilt. These cells were paralyzed after their elements had been pursued, attacked, and detained. We restricted our attacks to areas outside the occupied territories. The Israeli enemy's defiance and arrogance gave us time to rebuild our Palestinian armed cells among our people carefully and with steady, sustained effort. The Israeli invasion and occupation of southern Lebanon led to great quantities of arms, ammunition, and explosives moving to the occupied territories. This is the firepower for the fighters inside our homeland. The occupation forces captured a number of strugglers in southern Lebanon as well as patrols carrying ammunition to northern Palestine. In brief, I can say that we were working silently. The Palestinian official added: Third, the Jerusalem operation confirms the Palestinian revolution's ability to reach the heart of the Zionist entity, asserting its determination to continue armed struggle as a basic option to confront the hostile Israeli-U.S. alliance whose recent joint strategic cooperation agreement came as proof to all parties that the hostile U.S. policy has closed all doors to any incremental settlement that would safeguard our people's right to national independence.

The Palestinian official concluded his statement: Historically, this situation will be seen as aimed at depriving our people of their right to return to their homeland, to self- determination, and to an independent state on their national soil.

Fedayeen Attack Israeli Patrol in West Bank

JN081747 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] The operations of our revolutionaries inside the occupied homeland are greatly escalating despite the siege imposed on our revolution by the Syrian and Libyan as well as the Zionist forces.

A group of our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland hurled a hand grenade at a Zionist military patrol near 'Askar refugee camp near the city of Nabulus. The explosion wounded several members of the patrol. The enemy radio admitted the operation and claimed, as usual, that none of its soldiers was hurt by the explosion. The radio said the Zionist forces cordoned off the scene of the operation and carried out a large-scale search and arrest campaign against Palestinian citizens in attempt to find the perpetrators, who returned safely to their base in the occupied homeland.

Another group of our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland carried out a hand grenade attack on a Zionist enemy military patrol in the center of Nabulus. Following the attack, the Zionist enemy authorities imposed a curfew on the center of Nabulus and arrested 10 citizens. The authorities also closed off all roads leading to the city of Nabulus and set up search barracades on these roads. The Zionist soldiers prevented all those who do not live in the city from entering it. They also prevented residents from leaving the city and arrested 53 Palestinians, most of them school children and students at An-Najah University. It is to be noted that among the detainees were four girls.

Reports also said that an explosion took place in one of Haifa's markets wounding four Zionists. An enemy spokesman in Tel Aviv admitted the explosion and said that the explosion was caused by a time bomb, wounding four Zionists.

Ahmad Jibril Condemns 'Arafat's Campaigns
JN081649 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, 8 Dec (SANA) — In a statement that will be published by the Lebanese magazine *ASH-SHIRA'* tomorrow, PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril has said that Yasir 'Arafat [word indistinct] with the intelligence of the NATO pact and that he has signed security treaties with Italian and FRG intelligence.

Jibril condemned the impudent campaigns that 'Arafat launched against the fortress of steadfastness, Syria. He said that these campaigns are in harmony with the U.S. course in the region. Jibril wondered: What do we have in common with 'Arafat? Is it only that he raises the banners of Palestine?" Jibril added: Many traitors have raised the banners of Palestine and have fallen. Therefore, we say frankly that there will be no meeting now with Yasir 'Arafat and his course.

He said: We did not carry out this revolutionary upheaval within the PLO to improve our positions in the PLO. This upheaval is a radical one. He added: We have never called what is taking place in the Palestinian arena a Palestinian revolution. We have called it a resistance movement. He said: We are to establish a Palestinian revolution with clear political and organizational programs, with moral and revolutionary qualities, and with one revolutionary military command.

Jibril pointed to the statements of Reagan, Shultz, Mitterrand, and others, carried by foreign media, which warned against ending 'Arafat and his course. He pointed out that the unilateral decision regarding the POW's was artificial respiration for 'Arafat following his defeat in Tripoli and his stifling solitude on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels.

OPEC Ministers Agree To Maintain Prices

NC081957 Paris AFP in English 1952 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Geneva, Dec 8 (AFP) — Saudi oil minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani tonight said oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting here had reached an agreement to maintain their oil prices and production levels unchanged. "We reached an agreement — same price, same ceiling," he said.

The ministers will meet again tomorrow to choose a new OPEC secretary-general, he said.

Shaykh Yamani said the OPEC countries had reaffirmed their March 14 London accord lowering the marker crude price to 29 dollars a barrel and setting a 17.5 million barrel a day (MBD) production ceiling to underpin the new price. He said the ministers had made a "serious commitment to adhere" to the London agreement.

He said there was "no ceiling" on Saudi production.

Asked whether Saudi Arabia would continue to be OPEC's "swing" producer — adjusting output according to market conditions — Shaykh Yamani said: "That's what they (the OPEC partners) want us to do."

Iranian oil minister Mohammad Seyyed Gharazi said Saudi Arabia should "do the duty of a swing producer." The Saudis should now "reduce" their output, he said, adding: "That is the meaning of 'swing producer'."

Mr Gharazi said Iran accepted "the spirit" of the London agreement, although it had not subscribed to the reduction from 34 dollars to 29 dollars a barrel of the benchmark price determining the official selling prices of all OPEC countries. This was decided last March as OPEC producers were faced with the threat of a collapse of crude prices because of oversupply on the world market.

Algerian Energy Minister Belkacem Nabi said a final communique to be issued after the conference ends tomorrow would contain provisions enabling OPEC to consider a cutback in its overall output if the need arises. He also said the ministers would discuss relations with non-OPEC producers such as Mexico and the North Sea producers at their final working session tomorrow.

Other ministers said they would also seek to elect a new secretary-general to succeed Saturning Nan Nguema of Gabon, who left the job last June.

Tehran on 7 Dec Proceedings

LD081236 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpts] A correspondent of the Central News Unit reports on the second session of the OPEC oil ministers conference in Geneva:

During the second session of the 69th OPEC conference, which lasted until 2130 Geneva time, the OPEC oil ministers discussed issues on the agenda, including a possible price increase, production levels, and the quotas set at the London conference. The session, which was held behind closed doors, was attended by the Iranian delegation, which comprised Oil Minister Gharazi, Dr Honardust, who was selected Executive Committee chairman for 1 year during yesterday evening's session, and a number of Oil Ministry experts.

During the session, the Islamic Republic's delegate strongly defended the proposal to raise the base price from $29 to $34 a barrel and stated that, not only is a decrease of $5 dollars a barrel not in the interests of the nations, but that all profits had gone to oil companies and governments. Iran and a number of other countries believe that the violators of the London agreements should be identified and the level of their quota reconsidered in proportion to the extent of their violation as punishment.

Saudi Oil Minister on Production, Future Plans

PM081621 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Dec 83 p 9

[Interview with Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani by As-Sirr Sayyid Ahmad in Riyadh — date not specified]

[Excerpts] Question: The honeymoon OPEC expected with regard to increasing demand does not seem to have materialized. Do you therefore expect a recurrence of last year's experiment and the collapse of the agreement reached last March?

Answer: In the first place we did not expect a honeymoon but a period of intermittent clouds to be followed by clear skies. There has been an increase in demand during the third quarter of this year, which is normal. Historically, the third quarter of every year witnesses an increase in demand for oil averaging 1 million barrels per day in order to meet winter requirements. In the last quarter of the year and the first quarter of the new year, additional buying stops unless it is a harsh winter.

But in the years 1980-81 and 1982 we witnessed a change in this pattern. There was no increase in demand during the third quarter because of the existence of a large stockpile from which the consumer countries have been drawing at a rate which at the beginning of the year reached 5 million barrels per day. Now, in view of the fact that the stockpile has reached its normal level, we have witnessed activity in the market that explains the reason for the rise in OPEC production from 17.5 million barrels per day to more than 18 million at present, that is, an increase of about 1 million barrel per day. The near future depends a great deal on the winter. If it is harsh, the consumers will need additional quantities of oil, but if it is mild, we will see a drop in demand, and if it is normal, then demand will continue on the same level. Unfortunately for the producers, meteorological predictions do not indicate a harsh winter. With regard to next year, we expect an increase in consumption because of U.S. economic recovery.

Question: What is your estimate of the expected increase in demand?

Answer: The U.S. Energy Department expects a net increase in consumption of no less than 800,000 barrels per day and a drop in domestic production of up to 100,000 barrels per day. In addition to purchases for the strategic reserve, the additional U.S. imports will total more than 1 million barrels per day. We expect a substantial increase in demand in Europe and Japan. If the U.S. economic recovery continues, and it is expected to continue, there will be an increase in demand in the industrial world and developing world of up to 2 million barrels per day in 1984, an important part of which will come from OPEC.

Question: If this is the case with regard to increased demand, why did the Committee for Market Monitoring not recommend at its recent meeting raising the production ceiling from its present level?

Answer: This is an important question. We in fact decided that no country should increase its production except by an [OPEC] decision, and when there appears to be a need to increase production, an emergency meeting should be convened in order to distribute the quotas for such increase. But the committee seemed to fear the problems of discussing quotas and decided that if we raised the present ceiling we would cause an undesirable psychological effect on the market because action of this kind creates the feeling that there is an increasing demand for oil on the market. So we found ourselves in a situation in which many countries exceeded their fixed quotas. This is an unfortunate thing whose impact is somewhat eased by the fact that almost all the countries have abided by the official prices with the exception of some minor violations which are known to us all.

Question: What is the Kingdom's current production?

Answer: The Kingdom's average production in the third quarter of the year exceeded the 5 million barrels per day by 35,000 barrels.

Question: But according to published data it is 5.8 million barrels.

Answer: There are facts that need to be explained in this regard. In addition to our quota we also produce for another OPEC member state within the existing quota of that state. Saudi Arabia is not alone in doing this; other OPEC countries do it as well. Also, because of our need for gas, we are compelled to produce additional quantities of light Arabian crude which produces gas and we store it in floating containers. This quantity should not be considered part of the Saudi production because it does not go directly to the market. It will be calculated as part of production as soon as it is sold.

Question: If this is the case, do you expect OPEC's meeting today to raise the production ceiling?

Answer: No. I believe that the ceiling should remain within the 17.5 million barrel per day limit during the first quarter of the coming year because we do not expect an increase in demand in that period. We also expect a drop in demand in the second quarter, which, as I have explained, is a seasonal drop. After that we expect to witness an increase in demand as a result of economic recovery, in which case we can raise the ceiling.

Question: Last March's agreement was distinctive because by accepting the role of the deciding producer within the framework of a fixed ceiling the Kingdom agreed to limit the volume of its production, something that it used to refuse to discuss within OPEC since its establishment. Will you comment on this point?

Answer: I would like to explain this point. The Saudi Kingdom has no quota; rather, it is the swing producer. Legally there is no fixed quota for the Kingdom. Perhaps your thinking is due to taking into consideration the framework of OPEC's general ceiling, and so you figured the Kingdom's quota at 5 million barrels per day. When the resolution was drafted there was a phrase that said that the Kingdom is the swing producer within the 17.5 million barrel per day ceiling. I insisted that this phrase be deleted, and in fact it was deleted. Therefore, officially we have no quota. In fact, Saudi Arabia is shouldering its responsibilities more than any other country that has a fixed quota because we monitor the market and act accordingly. We have no intention of exceeding the 5 million barrels just because we are free to do so. We hope that the rest of the member states will appreciate this attitude.

Question: OPEC describes itself as a nonpolitical organization and so it has refrained from interfering in the Iraq-Iran war. But now, after the lapse of 3 and 1/2 years since the war broke out and following the failure of all mediations and the effect of this on you as oil-producing countries, and in the light of the fact that OPEC is the only field in which the two countries come together, do you not think it possible for OPEC to intervene in order to stop this war?

Answer: No. The moment the organization begins a political discussion it will fail to bring the two countries together to discuss their oil problems. OPEC is fundamentally an economic organization and we must keep it away from political activities.

Question: But some people believe OPEC does not want the war to stop in the present market condition, when there is a slump in demand, and that if peace is restored between Iraq and Iran, the two countries will need more funds for reconstruction and therefore need bigger quotas at the expense of the other member states.

Answer: First of all Iranian production cannot be increased substantially unless there is peace and Iran opens its doors to foreign expertise in order to improve the production facilities and the situation in the fields. But peace could increase Iraqi production, which will happen when greater demand for oil begins.

Question: In 1985 your refineries will begin exporting 825,000 tons of refined by-products. Work on these refineries began when there was increasing demand, but today there is a recession in the market and a surplus of more than 20 million tons in the market. In other words the product of these refineries will come to the market at an unsuitable time.

Answer: I do not agree with this view. We have contacts with major companies that want to buy our products. Also, these refineries are designed to use the latest technology and we use gas in operating them, which is a cheap form of energy. For this reason the economics of these refineries are better than most refineries in the rest of the world. For this reason we are in a strong competitive position. Most of the refineries in Europe should be either written off or remodeled. Remodeling them requires capital, which is not available in the present recession conditions, and they are not economical enough to continue operating as they are now.

Question: You mentioned modern technology and cheap energy as contributory factors in the success of Saudi refineries. But there are operational maintenance and shipping costs factors that could cancel out the advantages of the first two factors. I would recall that I have read a study that calculated the costs of the four factors — operation, shipping, energy, and capital — and found that 1 ton produced by the Kingdom will cost $36 while in Western refineries a ton costs $27.

Answer: I did not see the study you are talking about. But suffice it to say that we have a foreign partner who is putting his money and experience with us and marketing at least 50 percent of the production. They know the market better and they are convinced that they will make profits.

Question: Last September a U.S. congressional committee report criticised the Reagan administration's energy policy because it does not urge development of domestic production and has no clear view, which makes the military option the only one available to this administration in the event of a shortage of supplies. What is your comment?

Answer: I see no benefit in the military option because it is futile and dangerous to anyone who carries it out. I hope that this will not be the policy of the present U.S. Administration. There are several views on the question of energy policy in the United States. This policy so far has proved to be useful at present in that domestic production in the United States has increased as a result of the sudden increase in prices in 1979. But what about the future? We know, for example, that the gas available in the United States is sufficient for approximately 7 years. Therefore, the United States after that is going to face a problem in obtaining its gas requirements. We have no business with U.S. internal policy. What we would like to say is that, whatever that policy may be, we believe that the United States and the other industrialized countries can be assured about supplying them with the oil requirements in a practical manner and that we can enter into arrangements in this regard.

KUWAIT

PDRY Foreign Minister Arrives With Message
LD081614 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1233 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 8 Dec (KUNA) — PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali arrived in Kuwait this afternoon on a visit of several days. Dr ad-Dali is expected to confer with Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah on Saturday and convey a message from PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. He will also conduct talks with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy premier, foreign minister, and minister of information, on bilateral relations and the developments of the situation in the region.

ARAB TIMES Urges Syrian Caution on Lebanon
GF081823 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 7 Dec 83 p 5

["Opinion" column by Chief Editor Ahmad al-Jarallah: "Now Is the Time for Arab Caution"]

[Text] There is no doubt that it will be a victory for Syria if it causes US efforts in Lebanon to fail, because this will give satisfaction to all Arabs, even those who differ with the Syrian regime.

But it is necessary to point out that Syria puts itself in a critical position with regard to the US and the Soviet Union. The conduct and relations between these two big powers show that they intend to achieve their goals, even at the cost of small countries.

However, if Syria increases the tension with the US and this results in increased US involvement in Lebanon, and the US then finds it expedient to be accommodating in its Geneva talks with the Soviet Union in return for a flexible Soviet stand towards US action against Syria in Lebanon — then who will defend Syria?

Many countries want to break Syria's power and put Middle Eastern affairs in order, and there are some parties which do not accept the Syrian role in Lebanon.

The Arab situation now does not permit the Arab states to become involved in military obligations. By such involvement we may find ourselves losing Syria as we lost Lebanon before, or rescuing Lebanon at the expense of Syria.

This situation requires Syria's leaders to assess matters carefully, because the defeat of the Arab world since 1967 are more than enough and were caused by inaccurate information.

Egypt's late president Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir depended on Soviet power in the war against Israel in 1967, but the Soviets called on him to ask for peace after he was defeated. The same thing occured in 1973.

The situation is critical now, and the Syrian leadership should not allow itself to be misled by flattery intended to get Syria involved in war against a stronger power.

Columnist Regrets Suspension of Newspaper
GF081348 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 7 Dec 83 p 5

["Day by Day" column by Zahid Mattar]

[Text] Many people have asked why *AS-SIYASAH* has not appeared for the past three days.

I personally wonder why it was suspended because what was published did not merit such action.

But this is not the first time *AS-SIYASAH* has been closed, and it is also not the first time the paper has been referred to the public prosecutor. In fact, *AS-SIYASAH* has been closed on about 20 occasions and has been referred to the prosecutor-general more than 60 times since the paper was first published in 1965.

I hope that the reason for closing the paper is a grave one, because it is troublesome to close a newspaper for which about 800 people are working.

The disappearance of *AS-SIYASAH* for three days might make many people feel the absence of this distinguished paper, which differs from others in that it gives a realistic view of future trends, before it is too late.

PDRY

Foreign Minister Departs for Kuwait, Algeria
GF081722 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign affairs minister, left Aden today for visits to Kuwait and Algeria. During these visits he will convey messages from Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah and Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid. ANA reported that the messages deal with the fraternal relations that link our country to the two fraternal countries and with the volatile situation in the Middle East in light of the grave escalation undertaken by the United States against the peoples of the region.

SAUDI ARABIA

Bandar Expresses Concern at Lebanon Events
LD081434 Riyadh SPA in English 1202 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Washington, Dec 8 (SPA) — Saudi Ambassador to the U.S. Prince Bandar Ibn Sultan has expressed the kingdom's deep concern and distress at the sudden escalation of events in Lebanon. He told reporters here last night that the situation was viewed as "perilous" and said it was the kingdom's fervent hope that in the wake of these events, self-restraint and wisdom will be exercised by all parties. "Growing tensions in Lebanon underscore the importance of prompt withdrawal of invading Israeli forces from that war-torn nation," he said.

On the other hand, in an interview with the Lebanese news agency, Prince Bandar said HM King Fahd is exerting strenuous efforts to bring about peace and stability all over Lebanon and re-establish Islamic solidarity. He added that the Israeli enemy was always trying to impede efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis and urged all Arab countries to work hand-in-hand to save Arab Lebanon from all tragedies facing the country since the last ten years. He called on the U.S. to act in a serious and straightforward way to end the Israeli occupation of the southern Lebanon and stressed that Syria was acting to restore peace and stability in the country and help the Lebanese people to overcome the current crisis.

UAE

Soviet Delegation Holds Trade Talks

GF081337 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 8 Dec 83 p 26

[Text] A six-man delegation from the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry held talks yesterday with the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce. The delegation is on a week-long trip to the UAE and will return to Moscow tomorrow.

Sa'id Ahmad al-'Utaybah, president of the Abu Dhabi chamber, welcomed the delegation, saying that he hoped for a successful visit which could increase the low volume of trade between the two countries.

The talks at the ministry had concentrated on possible trade exchanges and how to increase trade, said a Soviet delegation member. Mr N. Mardoniyev, vice president of the USSR chamber said that the current volume of trade was very low, but that visits and delegations would be able to increase this. He emphasised the role of trade exhibitions in increasing trade links and praised the Ash-Shariqah Expo 83 which the delegation had visited.

He said that the USSR chamber had 4,500 affiliate members involved in foreign trade and that the chamber had organised 200 exhibitions in the USSR and 20 outside the country.

The USSR exports to Abu Dhabi totaled merely Dh 2.25 million in 1982, compared with Dh 5.4 million in 1981 and Dh 4.42 million in 1980. Sawn lumber was the largest component in 1982 with carpets, plywood and machinery parts making up most of the rest.

Mr Mardoniyev invited the Abu Dhabi chamber to visit the USSR. The chamber officials thanked him for the invitation and said that if they came they hoped to be able to visit Tashkent and other Muslim cities in the couth of the USSR. The Soviet delegates welcomed the idea.

The Soviet delegation includes P. Gurov of the Ministry of Trade's Asian Affairs Department, A. Filov, from the Ministry of Trade's Middle East Department, V. Baranov from the Department of Asian Affairs in the Ministry of Trade, S. Pavlov from the USSR chamber; and S. Modin, the interpreter.

UAE officials said during the discussion that the UAE was an open market and an importing market.

'Ali, Australia's Bowen Review Mideast Situation

NC081401 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today held a meeting with Lionel Bowen, the Australian deputy prime minister and trade minister. A review was made of the situation in the Middle East area. Kamal Hasan 'Ali explained the situation. He elucidated Egypt's stand on the recent developments in the area. His excellency emphasized that Egypt continues its efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East area, to resolve the Lebanese issue, and to achieve the total withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon. His excellency also affirmed that Egypt continues to exert efforts to solve the Palestinian issue. The Egyptian and Australian sides have discussed means of bolstering bilateral relations in the various domains.

Trade Minister Leaves Cairo

NC091104 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 9 Dec (MENA) — Lionel Bowen, Australian deputy prime minister and minister of trade, and his delegation left Cairo today following a 3-day visit during which he was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Bowen also conferred with Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and with Dr Naji Shatlah, minister of supply and internal trade. He discussed with them topics of mutual interest, especially the situation in the Middle East, the current events in Lebanon, and the Palestinian people's rights.

'Ali Meets With Department Chiefs 8 Dec

NC081735 Cairo MENA in English 1655 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, Dec 8 (MENA) — Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali met today with a number of his assistants and directors of the Arab, Asian, African and International Organizations Departments of the ministry. The meeting dealt with latest Mideast developments and the outcome of the tours made recently by a number of the foreign ministers'assistants of some Arab, African, and Asian countries with a view to boosting Egypt's relations with them. A working plan for the coming three months was also drawn up during the meeting.

AL-AKHBAR Interviews Foreign Minister 'Ali

LD090837 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that Egypt hopes that the peace process will not be exposed to negative results because of the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance and that the result of this alliance will not be Israel's receiving everything from America without changing its attitude to the Palestinian problem. Kamal Hasan 'Ali said in an interview with *AL-AKHBAR*, published in Cairo, that the future of peace in the region depends now on our attitude as Arabs and on our understanding that the serious challenges surrounding us require an Arab attitude of solidarity and one that applies pressure to extract our rights. He pointed out that if an Arab attitude similar to what happened during the October war were achieved, the Arabs would achieve their objectives. Kamal Hasan 'Ali described in the interview, to be published tomorrow, Arab-Egyptian relations as being on the right course and denied reports to the effect that Saudi Arabia was behind the present nonreturn of Arab-Egyptian relations.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali explained that it is premature to predict or reach decisive conclusions now on the extent of the effect of the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement on the peace process, and said we are awaiting the implementation of the obligations and undertakings we received from the United States, which confirm its commitment to the Reagan peace plan, Security Council Resolution 242, and the need to complete the peace process in the Middle East. He added that Egypt hopes that the result of this agreement will not be the success of Israel, as happened before, in receiving everything from America without introducing any change in its attitude toward the disputed points between the U.S. and Israeli positions, especially concerning the form and method of settling the Palestinian problem.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali expressed the belief that the future of peace in the region will depend to a great extent on the attitude of the Arabs before anything. He explained had the Arabs understood very well the serious circumstances through which the region is going and the challenges that surround it, and felt these circumstances required a stand of Arab solidarity and massed all their capabilities for the achievement of peace on the basis of the Fes summit resolutions, this would be a positive attitude giving impetus to the peace efforts and would realize the objectives we desire. Answering a question on the possibility of full U.S. support for Israel, thus forcing some Arab states to turn to the Soviet Union for refuge and support, the foreign minister said that responding to the polarization call is the most dangerous thing the Arabs can fall into. The basic criterion for the attitude of the Arab countries to a foreign state is governed by the pan-Arab and national interest in the first place. Kamal Hasan 'Ali warned that the policy of polarization brings the Arabs into the game of the superpowers which contradicts nonalignment and puts Arab interest second to the interests of the two ends of the polarization.

Mr 'Ali talked about Egyptian-Arab relations and said that since President Husni Mubarak took responsibility, Egyptian-Arab relations have been witnessing positive development day after day. In addition, Egyptian policy toward the Arab countries is following a plan that aims at developing and strengthening these relations.

The deputy prime minister reaffirmed that Egypt is in continuous contact with the majority of Arab countries, pointing out that of all the draft resolutions concerning the Palestinian issue submitted to the General Assembly, Egypt was among the countries that supported these resolutions.

Egypt, he said, does not bring up, during Arab contacts, the question of exchanging ambassadors because this question is left to the Arab brothers, each according to its circumstances. However, bilateral relations between Egypt and the Arab countries exist in various fields and are represented by President Mubarak's meetings, which were held with a number of Arab leaders

at various occasions and in sending Egyptian envoys to many Arab countries. Mr 'Ali denied a question about the Saudi Arabian Kingdom standing against the present return of Egyptian-Arab relations and said: I do not believe that there is a pan-Arab or national interest for Saudi Arabia to adopt such a stance, because Egypt has its effective and tangible weight as the largest Arab country. He added in this respect that the moderate Egyptian policy is an essential factor in the balance of the region and stressed that the disturbance of this balance will reflect on the entire region, therefore, we can not see any pan-Arab or national interest in such a stance concerning Egypt.

He recalled that when conformity prevailed in Egyptian-Saudi relations, the area witnessed positive results and the area had its effective and influential weight on the international situation; it was possible to manage many of the Arab problems for the benefit of all Arabs. The foreign minister emphasized that the brothers in Saudi Arabia, because of their keen interest in Arab solidarity, are pursuing a policy based on closing Arab ranks and resolving differences so that Arab countries can face the dangers that surround them.

Answering a question on how Egypt saw the Palestinian reality today, he said that the Palestinian action today is going through one of the harshest stages in its history, and perhaps its most serious, because the conditions prevailing in the PLO leading this action are distressing and regrettable. The split in the organization and the bloody battles between its various groups threaten to cause the gravest harm to the Palestinian cause. He added: We believe that external interference in the organization's affairs and the attempts to control the Palestinian decision are the direct cause of all that has happened and is happening. Hence, Egypt opposes all this in order to preserve the independence and freedom of decision of the organization. He pointed out that the Palestinian action has been diverted from its target, striving to recover its legitimate rights, to intrafighting, a matter that has made the organization lose much of its international capital.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali went on to say that Egypt asks the Palestinian leadership to rise above its differences, work to solve its problems through dialogue, be aware of all the control and containment attempts, and bring back the Palestinian freedom of decision. Concerning the report that Egypt will not announce its actual support for 'Arafat until after he was completely beleagured, the foreign minister said this was totally incorrect and that Egypt's support for the legitimacy of the Palestinian leadership began at the emergence of the organization in the political arena. He pointed out that what Egypt had done in relation to the organization at the international level, during the siege of Beirut and getting the guarantees for safe conduct, is the strongest proof of Egypt's support for the Palestinian leadership even before the Tripoli events. Kamal Hasan 'Ali confirmed that Yasir 'Arafat is the symbol of the PLO, has international fame and position, and participated in serving his cause. Therefore, his leadership of the organization represents the legitimacy that was accepted by institutions inside the organization.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali refused to comment on the expression of "cold peace" with Israel. Answering a question on the possibility of peace with Israel becoming colder during the coming days, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that Egypt had often confirmed its commitment to peace, whether in words or deeds. Egypt negotiated with Israel in good faith and had respected the outcome of those negotiations, the contractual obligations, in letter and spirit. However, the behavior of Israel and its policy have led to the complication of relations between the two countries. He added: Peace does not depend on one side; rather it is a mutual relationship that needs the understanding by each side of the rights and legitimate interests of the other side and the need to implement the commitments agreed upon. Relations between us can develop depending on the flexibility Israel shows in its policy toward Arab causes.

Answering a question on the reported existence of U.S. pressures on Egypt to return its ambassador to Israel, Kamal Hasan 'Ali confirmed that Egypt, as is known, does not accept pressures. He said the criterion for its behavior is its national interest and the freedom of its decision. The foreign minister went on to say that the United States only had inquired about the circumstances in which it would be possible for Egypt to return its ambassador to Israel, within the context of its role in the achievement of peace between the two countries. He explained that Egypt had explained its attitude on this matter and we felt an understanding from some U.S. sides of our point of view. When the causes for the recall of our ambassador disappear, he will return. He pointed out that Egypt and the United States understand the attitude of the other toward all the issues and that they agree inasmuch as disagree, but this does not affect the good relations of our two countries.

Assembly Official Confers With Soviet Diplomat

NC081301 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA) — Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Ilah, People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee chairman, received in his office today (Shah Nazaryan), Soviet charge d'affaires in Cairo. The Soviet charge d'affaires outlined his country's stand on the Geneva disarmament talks. The discussions during the meeting dealt with the Middle East situation and relations between the two countries, particularly in the fields of economic cooperation and trade.

Muhyi ad-Din Receives FRG Business Group

NC081737 Cairo MENA in English 1420 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, Dec 8 (MENA) — Premier Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din received today the members of the Executive Bureau of the Businessmen Committee of Egypt and the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). Premier Muhyi ad-Din expounded the Egyptian viewpoint with regard to the Palestinian cause, the situation in Lebanon, and the Iraq-Iran war. The premier further referred to the European role in effecting a just and durable peace in the Middle East. He also underlined the necessity of Israeli forces' withdrawal and freezing the establishment of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The prime minister also expounded the guarantees privileges Egypt provides for joint investment ventures. On the other hand the German side paid tribute to the Egyptian-German relations in the (?various fields) adding that the FRG will offer 12 scholarships for the graduates

of Egyptian universities to train in German (?plants) within the context of bilateral technical cooperation. The meeting was attended by Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Dr Wajih Shindi and West German ambassador here Kurt Mueller.

Sudanese Internal Affairs Minister Arrives
NC081710 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA) — Sudanese Internal Affairs Minister Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman arrived in Cairo this afternoon. He came from Baghdad where he attended the second conference of the Arab Interior Ministers Council which convened there from 5 to 7 December.

The Sudanese minister, whose visit to Cairo will last 2 days, was met by Assistant Interior Minister Major General Ahmad Bulbul and members of the Sudanese Embassy staff in Cairo.

Minister on Electric Projects, Nuclear Stations
NC081414 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Shibin al-Kawm, 8 Dec (MENA) — Engineer Mahir Abaza, electricity and energy minister, has reiterated Egypt's positive role on the international level. He praised the role that the African states had played in enabling Egypt's obtaining membership in the UN Security Council.

In his address to the Political Conference of the National Democratic Party in Shibin al-Kawm today, the minister said that good steps have been taken to improve the balance of payments. He pointed out that the government has already started implementing a plan to solve the utilities problems. He added that his ministry has completed the electrification of 6,000 villages and hamlets, from which some 80 percent of the countryside will benefit. The minister said that the ministry's programs aim at building nuclear stations with an estimated output of 8,000 megawatts.

Opposition Supports Mubarak on U.S.-Israeli Pact
NC081536 Cairo MENA in English 1428 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Paris, 8 Dec (MENA) — Secretary General of the Egyptian opposition Socialist Labour Party Dr Hilmi Murad said today that all opposition parties agree with President Husni Mubarak's assessment of the Israeli-U.S. strategic cooperation agreement as a disaster.

In a statement to *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* newspaper, published here today, Dr Murad said that differences between the government and the opposition over domestic issues have no effect on a unified Egyptian stand toward this agreement.

He said the United States and Israel should know that whatever domestic problems and differences the Egyptians may have they are unanimous in opposing that agreement.

MAY Criticizes U.S.-Israeli Strategic Agreement
PM081450 Cairo MAY in Arabic 5 Dec 83 p 2

[Salamah Ahmad Salamah article: "The United States and the Arabs"]

[Text] Political analysts in the West and in the East — we say the West before the East — agree that the strategic agreement announced in Washington at the end of Shamir's talks with the U.S. Administration constitutes a serious turning point in the relations and delicate balances of the Middle East. The United States has taken this step without any prior consultation with its so-called moderate friends in the region or, in other words, with the Arab states under Soviet threat. The U.S. Administration has used the Soviet threat as a justification for its dangerous contracts and agreements with Israel. So, in the eyes of the United States and Israel, the Arab states which are supposedly exposed to the Soviet threat should know nothing about it or about the methods which the United States, with the help of Israel, is using at present or will use in the future to deter and contain it.

The Soviet threat in the Middle East may be real or it may be imaginary, but the logic applied by the United States in relation to this threat and its immediate and long-term implications reflects utter contempt for the intelligence of the peoples and governments of the Middle East. Assuming that the Soviet threat is real, it would have been better if the United States cooperated with the states likely to be the victims. It would have been better if the United States coordinated its strategy with these states and if it strengthened, supported, and helped these states in confronting this danger, instead of cooperating with the only side whose aggressive policies have paved the way for Soviet influence in the Middle East, instead of increasing the capabilities of that side and driving the moderate Arab states to extremism, or at least making them look for new ways of balancing the massive aid earmarked for Israel under the new agreements, aid such as even Israel has never dreamed of.

It is certainly in the interest of the United States U.S.-Arab relations, and the Arab states which still believe in the U.S. role and ability to establish and influence peace in the Middle East, to have a clear idea of what these new agreements with Israel mean and what effects they are likely to have on the complex crisis in the Middle East. After that the Arabs will have a right to state their positions, defend their interests, and press for a real balance that would prevent further U.S. involvement in one-sided relations which could in the long run result in a serious setback for the United States in the Middle East, increase the danger of polarization in the region, and undermine the trust which has developed and grown between the United States and most Arab states. It is in this context that we understand the Egyptian position expressed by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali when he pointed out that the United States cannot be qualified to play the part of full partner in the peace process unless it adopts an even-handed policy striking a balance between Palestinian and Arab rights on the one hand and Israeli demands on the other. It is also in this context that we understand King Husayn's description of the military agreement reached during Shamir's talks as an alarming agreement likely to adversely affect the region's faith in the United States.

In view of the long-term objectives of this agreement, the Arabs should adopt a unified stand. We do not expect an Arab summit conference to be held for that purpose. The Arabs have failed to convene a summit conference on equally important issues. There is need for a minimum degree of understanding and consultation, through ordinary or extraordinary channels, to assess and tackle the result of this new new U.S.-Israeli accord.

AL-AKHBAR Labels Agreement 'Catastrophe'

PM082011 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 6 Dec 83 pp 1, 3

[Musa Sabri article: "You Are Starting a Fire, President Reagan"]

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Arafat told the Egyptian press representatives who met him in Tripoli that the Soviet Union has not sent the Palestinian resistance a single weapon since the Beirut battle and that the Soviet Union prefers the Syrian ally to the PLO friend. Although Comrade [NPUG leader] Khalid Muhyi ad-Din's paper in Egypt, reflecting the Egyptian Communist Party's blind commitment to the defense of the Soviet Union, has denied that 'Arafat made such a statement, *AL-AKHBAR* has in its possession a full recording of Yasir 'Arafat's statements. The point I want to make here is that the Soviet Union is, through agreement, assistance, and incitement, an active partner in the attempts to strike at the Palestinian resistance and get rid of Yasir 'Arafat. The two other partners in the plot are Syria and Libya. A fourth party which stands to benefit from the plot is Israel.

According to recent reports about the strategic agreement concluded between U.S. President Reagan and the Israeli prime minister, the agreement is clearly a complete U.S.-Israeli military alliance. Since Israel's prime objective is to destroy the Palestinian resistance, this means that Israel's future battles against the resistance will be waged in open agreement between Israel and the United States. The sides which stand to benefit from this plot are first Israel and then the Soviet Union, Syria, and Libya.

There is a new and very grave situation in the region: The United States and the Soviet Union, the two superpowers, have agreed, directly or indirectly, to hit the Palestinian resistance and get rid of Yasir 'Arafat's leadership. In the world of U.S.-USSR secret agreements, we can expect anything. Whatever is said about the new U.S.-Israeli agreement, I cannot believe that it is directed against Syria because the Syrian and Israeli aims are identical. They both want to destroy the Palestinian resistance, and Syria also wants to control what may be left of the Palestinian resistance to strengthen its position when the negotiations with Israel on the liberation of the Golan begin and when the secret agreements to partition Lebanon are implemented.

The game is dangerous. The U.S.-Israeli agreement, as it was published, is the biggest catastrophe to befall the Arab region as a whole. Ostensibly, the purpose of the agreement is to hit Syria if it moves and uses Soviet weapons; but everyone knows that Syria will never move. It had the opportunity to do so when Israel invaded Lebanon. It let the Israeli forces pass and massacre the Palestinian resistance. Furthermore, why should Israel attack Syria now that the latter is dealing blows to the Palestinian resistance to abort the movement — which is certainly an Israeli objective? All analysts agree that Syria has succeeded where Israel failed. It managed to strike and fragment the resistance and succeeded in causing a parting within the Palestinian leadership at the expense of the Palestinian people's cause.

The two-faced political maneuvers, Arab disunity, and the negative and uncommitted Arab approach provided the opportunity and the good timing for this dangerous U.S.-Israeli agreement which, quite simply, gives Israel the freedom to wreak havoc in the Arab regions in any way it likes at any time it likes. I believe that U.S. President Reagan is starting a fire. He, before anyone else, knows that Israel does not need any new weapons. Former President Carter himself has said that Israel is a military arsenal and that it does not need any more arms. President Reagan, before anyone else, knows that this dangerous agreement, which gives Israel a free hand to do what it likes and dashes all hopes for a lasting and comprehensive peace, constitutes a threat to the friendly and peace-loving Arab states. The frustration of peace is a top Soviet objective. The Soviet Union wants to demonstrate that peace efforts and plans cannot succeed without Soviet participation.

We have learned that the superpowers always believe that they can protect their interests by force, and their interests always come first. If Reagan imagines that Israel's military might can protect U.S. interests in the region, then his is a flimsy belief reflecting complete inability to grasp the facts. If the Soviet Union believes that it stands to benefit from the dashing of peace hopes, then it's a flimsy belief showing, categorically, that Moscow has learned nothing from experience and from the Soviet Union's complete failure in Egypt after the collapse of all of Moscow's attempts to control Egyptian decisions at home and abroad.

Israel has transformed the real crisis, which is the Palestinian crisis, into a crisis of Lebanon's occupation. Now it is trying, in every possible way, to give the impression that Egypt is not adhering to the peace treaty. It's using a peripheral issue to undermine Egypt's position. It maintains that the withdrawal of the Egyptian ambassador from Israel — although there is still an Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv — is a violation of the peace treaty. The Israeli prime minister has even permitted himself to instruct the White House to suspend U.S. economic and military aid to Egypt at a time when President Reagan's administration is flooding Israel with massive economic aid. Then comes this dangerous strategic agreement.

The house is burning and while its owners argue about who should have the first right to extinguish the fire, the fire rages on and is bound to devour everyone. Israel is now capitalizing on this bad situation. It believes that it has a good opportunity. With help from Syria and Libya, Israel has managed to undermine the Arab position. In the Iraqi-Iranian war, Israel, Syria, and Libya are helping Iran against Iraq in every way they can. Furthermore, Israel can see that the Arab states, which have agreed on a peace strategy, are unable to hold a single meeting. Here emerges the U.S. responsibility and the dangerous role assumed by U.S. President Reagan through his catastrophic agreement with Israel. We believe that the agreement is directed against the entire Arab region. Arab fragmentation, however bad, does not

mean that giving Israel a free hand is the solution and the way to peace.

If U.S. President Reagan is starting a fire and placing the permanent and comprehensive peace objective in jeopardy with this dangerous agreement, which constitutes a grave threat to that objective, simply to boost his election prospects and simply because the Arabs are divided, then he must know that the United States will certainly be the ultimate loser even if he wins the presidential election. Egypt is interested in the best relations with the United States and will never change its peace strategy, nor will it ever hesitate to shoulder its national responsibilities. I therefore urge the U.S. President to listen to Egypt's voice and understand that true friendship dictates that we be honest with him in warning against this catastrophic agreement.

Arrest of Takfir Al-Hijrah Group Reported

WA081947 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Nov 83 p1

[Text] Egyptian state security investigators have arrested a new secret organization called "Leaders Who Have Escaped the Trial of 1982" [Al-Qiyadiyan al-Haribun Min Qadiyat 'Am 1982] which is part of the Takfir wa al-Hijrah organization. Two apartments belonging to members of this organization were seized — one at Al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah, and the other at Al-Tibbin in Hulwan. There for the first time handwritten documents were found containing the organizational structure of the Takfir wa al-Hijrah group which includes a general secretary, an advisory council, committees that carry out various activities, and branch leaders in all the governates of the republic. Members of the organization finance their activities by contributing a third of their salaries, collecting donations, and managing commercial projects.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,304
JN081738 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,304 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 8 December 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In defense of lofty Iraq and the glorious Arab nation's dignity our valiant Armed Forces continue their courageous activities on land, in the air, and at sea against the forces of the rancorous and aggressor Iranian enemy. The results of the activities yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our valiant naval units sighted several enemy naval targets trying to enter the Khowr-e Musa canal northeast of the Arab Gulf. Our daring aircraft and able naval units intercepted them and struck them, destroying six naval targets. Flames and columns of smoke were seen spiralling from the destroyed naval targets while the other enemy naval targets fled in panic and confusion toward Bandar-e Deylam. The enemy sent several of its fighter aircraft to the area. Our aircraft clashed with them in a dogfight that resulted in the downing of one enemy fighter aircraft which was seen exploding in the air. All our aircraft and naval units returned safely to base with the exception of one aircraft, which crashed in the area due to a technical fault after having successfully completed its mission. We hold the Iranian side responsible for the safety of the aircraft's pilot. By this, our air and naval forces confirm that they are capable of destroying any target that may try to approach or enter the prohibited zone in the Arab Gulf as defined in our previous communiques and statements.

2. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite one of our forward units' positions east of Basra. Our units pounded it with all types of weapons, killing three and destroying one mobile fuel tank.

3. Two infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were killed in the central sector of the battlefield.

4. The clique of evil and rancor which is ruling Iran today shelled Basra and Mandali and their suburbs. As a result of the enemy shelling, two civilians were martyred, eight others were wounded, and two houses were destroyed in Basra.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 December 1983

Ibrahim Receives Hungarian Parliamentarian
JN081322 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text]'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, this morning received Dr Janos Peter, vice president of the Hungarian National Assembly. During the meeting, Ibrahim asked Peter to convey President Saddam Husayn's greetings to the Hungarian command.

Peter valued Iraq's positive stands and its cooperation with all international organizations that have worked for ending the Iraqi-Iranian war.

He praised Iraq's wise leadership under the current difficult circumstances and its efforts to achieve a prominence among world countries.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the cooperative relations between the two friendly countries and the means of promoting them in both peoples' interests.

The meeting was attended by Baha' ad-Din Ahmad, deputy speaker of the National Assembly, and the Hungarian ambassador in Baghdad.

Crown Prince Receives U.S. Delegation 8 December

JN081303 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Amman —His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received at his office today the U.S. House of Representatives delegation. His highness the crown prince explained to the delegation the recent developments in the region in general and the situation in the occupied Arab territories in particular. His highness warned against the dangers of the Israeli expansionist policy, and their effect on escalating instability in the Middle East.

The president of the national assembly of Arab Americans and the U.S. ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Arab States Should Not Receive U.S. Envoy

JN081215 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 8 Dec 83 pp 1, 28

[Editorial: "The United States and Its New Mideast Envoy"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration is mistaken if it thinks that the return of its Middle East envoy will allay the fears which have been roused by its strategic alliance with Israel, or change the Arab conviction that the United States has abandoned its role as mediator and, with all its immense resources and weight, has moved to the Zionist enemy trench. The U.S. envoy is one of dozens of envoys that preceded him to the area giving promises and pledges which later disappeared in view of the U.S. commitment to maintaining Israel's military superiority and giving it the green light to continue its aggression against the Arab nation.

Washington's position will not change after President Reagan's special envoy's visit to the region because the U.S. President cannot play the role of a peace mediator after proving that he is a crises maker and the one who seeks to escalate the conflict in the region within his policy of force which he believes will subjugate the Arabs and give Israel a free hand to implement the secret agreements concluded between Tel Aviv and Washington. It is probable that the U.S. President will use the Israeli tool to retaliate against the shooting down of his planes which attacked the Syrian forces in Lebanon. This will also encourage the Israeli militarists to retaliate against the Israeli bus explosion last Tuesday.

The inflamed Lebanese situation and the increasing tension in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are the first fruit of the Israeli-Zionist strategic alliance. Thus, Washington has destroyed what remained of the Arab trust in its credibility or ability to follow an even-handed policy and to assume its role as a superpower whose responsibility is to preserve world peace and security, deter aggression, and assist victims of aggression and annihilation.

The Arab states would do well not not to receive the U.S. envoy whose mission is confined to justifying the strategic alliance and the complete U.S. bias in favor of Israel. He will repeat to the Arabs the banal U.S. remarks about Washington's concern over its friendship with the Arab states. Since this will be his mission, there is no need for him to come. No Arab state should receive him in its capital. This is the least they can do.

JORDAN TIMES on 'Discouraging' U.S.-Israeli Pacts

JN081100 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Dec 83 p4

[Editorial: "The Same Old Recipe"]

[Text] The range of agreements and cooperation programmes agreed upon between Israel and the United States in Washington last weeks sends a discouraging signal to the Arabs, at a time when the Arabs have been looking to the United States —in vain, it seems —for a positive gesture. The American-Israeli accords cover a broad range of issues, including a free trade zone, the use by Israel of American military aid funds, the supply to Israel of American cluster bombs, the establishment of a joint political-military committee and an increase in American financial grants to Israel.

Many of the specific points agreed upon need to be fleshed out in future meetings, which will start in January in Washington. The joint political-military committee will discuss such matters as joint American-Israeli military exercises, combined planning, and the pre-positioning of American equipment and supplies in Israel.

It is difficult to read the tone of the American-Israeli talks in Washington last week as anything less than a strong American pat on the back for what Israel is and what Israel has done in the past several years. For sure, American officials point out that there are points of disagreement between the two countries, on matters including the Israeli settlements, Israel's attitude to the 1982 Reagan initiative and the situation in the West Bank and Gaza.

More important, however, is the emerging American-Israeli enthusiasm for a get-tough policy against the Syrians, the Soviets and anyone else, such as the Lebanese Druze and Shia communities, who dare to object to American-Israeli actions in the region.

Our concern is that while the differences between the Americans and the Israelis remain on the level of philosophical argument, the points of accord between them are quickly translated into joint actions that continue to strengthen Israel and thereby further reduce the prospects of a more conciliatory Israel. This is, in the long run, a continuation of the same old recipe for conflict and bloodshed that has defined the Middle East for so many years already. If America is ready to reward Israel so handsomely for its actions, why is America so surprised that moderate Arabs are not clamouring to jump into America's lap?

American attempts to court Arab moderation while stoking the fires of Israeli extremism cannot possibly succeed, no matter how hard American officials try to rationnalise their desire to strengthen ties with both of these parties.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B Urges Arabs To Rethink U.S. Role

JN081300 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 8 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Arab Alliance Is Our Path for Salvation," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: After the recent developments which have led to a complete U.S.-Israeli military and political alliance and a declared [U.S.] bias toward Israel, and after the escalation of the U.S. role in Lebanon, the Arabs should reconsider the U.S. role in the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East.

The announcement of the strategic alliance and the unlimited U.S. support for Israel have aborted the Arab theory of the possibility of a balanced U.S. role in the region.

Thus, the Arab political trends and resolutions, that were based on the possibility of a U.S. stand not biased toward Israel, must also be reconsidered, because they will be subject to accusations, due to the escalation of the U.S. involvement in the region and the strengthening of Washington's alliance with Israeli aggressive and expansionist stands in the Arab territories.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B continues: We must not forget that the Israeli military hegemony and superiority — the source of all evils in the region — have always been the result of the strategic alliance and support which has been escalating between Washington and Tel Aviv since the mid-1950's.

Therefore, it is not surprising for the U.S. stand to be strippedof the delusions that overwhelmed the political hopes we had while panting after the U.S. peace option. The U.S. peace effort, that began with the disengagement of forces after the 1973 war, began in the same way that it has ended. It began with filling the Israeli arsenal with U.S. arms, under the pretext that a strong Israel is more capable than the peace option, and has ended with the U.S. stand following in the tracks of the Israeli stand, and with Washington paying the price of the continued Israeli aggression against the Arab territories.

We do not believe that there is an urgent need for the new U.S. stand related to the pre-U.S. election stage. This stand is premeditated bias against the Arabs, without any Israeli commitment toward peace issue.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: The reversal in the U.S. stand was the result of Arab absence. This will make the U.S. stand more dangerous in the Arab region. The reply to the new U.S. stand can only be achieved by the Arabs abandoning the small battles raging in their territory, changing the nature of the relations existing among the Arab countries, and returning to the inter-Arab alliance. This is because an Arab absence and fumbling will force other countries to support their enemies, and will force the world to disregard our nation and causes.

Foreign Minister Receives PLO's Hani al-Hasan

JN090937 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AD-DUSTUR* — It has been learned that Hani al-Hasan, member of the [Palestine] Central Council and Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, met yesterday with Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim in the presence of Brigadier General 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, representative of the PLO's Executive Committee.

They discussed the recent developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas and the reinforcement of the joint Jordanian- Palestinian efforts to bolster the cause in the face of dangers and challenges.

AR-RA'Y on U.S.-Israeli Coordination in Tripoli

JN090856 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Will the Untied States Be Involved in the Sin of the Age," *AR-RA'Y* says: Yesterday Israel officially disclosed the vicious intentions it is harboring against the Palestinian convoy that is preparing to leave Tripoli, and against Yasir 'Arafat personally. Replying to a question about Sharon's call to prevent 'Arafat from leaving Tripoli alive, Yitzhaq Shamir stated that Israel is considering all methods of action. Hence, it has become clear that Israel is preparing for a terrorist and cowardly operation against the departing Palestinian fighters, and Yasir 'Arafat in particular. The side that benefits from the fabricated ordeal between the Palestinians in northern Lebanon has finally unveiled its real face. This side is publicly preparing to reap the fruits of its action, namely to kill the departing fighters.

What increases the seriousness of the situation is the fact that Shamir's statement, which was broadcast on Israeli radio, was coupled with the radio's hinting at the U.S.-Israeli coordination regarding all important stands. This connection clearly indicates that there is some kind of coordination between the two sides regarding the terrorist crime that Sharon and Shamir have talked about.

Under the ongoing preparations for the ugly crime and in light of Israel's eagerness to bring the coordination it is carrying out with the United States on this crime out into the open, it is necessary to firmly and loudly warn the U.S. Administration that it will be committing the sin of the age if it becomes involved in preparations for the crime which Sharon has urged be committed and which Shamir is discussing how to implement. The U.S. Administration must realize that its involvement in a crime like this will turn the United States from a superpower into a terrorist power. This involvement will be the spark that will accelerate violence. Should this happen, no one will be able to control this violence or limit the spheres and arenas to which it might extend.

Therefore, the U.S. Administration is urged to pledge to the world that it will not be involved with Israel in attacking the Palestinians departing from Tripoli and that it will not allow Israel to do such a thing. The United States would be shouldering a big responsibility if it prevents the crime that its ally, Israel, is preparing. This responsibility cannot be obviated by the protection that France and Greece have pledged to offer during the departure process. Furthermore, and in light of Israel's vicious intentions, the USSR and Italy are urged to agree to the PLO's request that they join France and Greece in offering protection in order to abort Israel's terrorist crime before it is implemented.

In conclusion, *AR-RA'Y* says: It is a tragic situation that forced the Palestinian revolution to request non-Arab protection to secure the departure of its fighters. History will certainly condemn those hands that have planned for this departure while disguised in velvet gloves.

Israeli Navy Attacks Fatah Base at Tripoli

NC090553 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0518 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Last night witnessed naval operations on the Lebanese arena. They were not confined to the capital, its suburbs, or the two Al-Matn coasts, but went beyond to Tripoli, where the Israeli Navy, guarded by helicopters and battleships, [barijah harbiyah], carried out a limited military operation at dawn today against a Palestinian underground base on the coast, which includes some vehicles and installations, at a distance of 1 kilometer north of Tripoli Port. An Israeli spokesman said some Israeli warships attacked a terrorist base north of Tripoli at 0300 today. He explained that this is a Fatah base located on the coast at a distance of 1 kilometer north of the city. He said that the Israeli Naval artillery achieved its objectives. He pointed out that this base is a fortified encampmentcomprising some means of transport, installations, buildings, and tents.

A Palestinian military spokesman detailed the operation as follows:

At 0300 today, Israeli Naval forces attacked our positions in the port of Tripoli. A battleship, torpedo boats, and some fighter helicopters participated in the attack. The battleship began a concentrated artillery and rocket shelling at a time when the boats advanced in an attempt at landing, supported by helicopters. The spokesman said the Palestinian forces intercepted the attacking forces and forced them to retreat, and that the Israeli warship and helicopters are still off the coast. In addition to the Israeli and Palestinian stories, internal security sources in Tripoli stated that the inhabitants woke up frightened at 0240 at dawn today to the echo of violent rocket shelling, without knowing the reason for these explosions, before the news of the Israeli attack on the port area was disseminated this morning.

U.S. Marines Engaged in Clashes 8-9 Dec

Marines Fired On

NC081819 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] The Syrians, Socialists, and Communists have been the perpetrators of another round of violence like that of yesterday. Shortly after 3:30 in the afternoon their random shelling extended beyond the traditional frontlines in the mountain, the residential areas including Sinn al-Fil, Jisr al-Basha, Al-Mukallis, Al-Hazimiyah, Al-Mansuriyah, Ad-Dikwanah, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Al-Hadath, [word indistinct] and Humal. There were no reports concerning casualties. The latest news from the mountain front concerns intermittent shelling continuing against Lebanese Army positions at Qabr Shmun, 'Ayn Ksur and 'Bayh from enemy positions in Baysur and Shimlan. Intermittent exchanges are also reported from the front Suq al-Gharb-'Aytat.

Other reports from the southern suburb have spoken of intermittent shelling of Lebanese Army positions on the 'Aramun heights and at Khaldah and of firing on the U.S. Marines on the approaches of Kafr Shima.

Positions Under Rocket Fire

NC082243 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2228 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The extensive deterioration of security began at 2130 tonight when the Marine positions near the airport's eastern runway came under rocket and mortar fire. Later the shells fell in many parts of the southern suburbs of Beirut. Furthermore, the airport's eastern runway was hit by many mortar shells. At 2320 there was sniper fire from Al-'Amrusiyah in the direction of the Army positions in Tallat Hunayn and Al-Hadath. Security sources have reported that the Marines used sophisticated weapons to reply to the source of the shelling. A spokesman for the U.S. force in Beirut has reported that the Marines replied to the sources of fire with medium -caliber weapons and tanks.

Marines Exchange Fire

NC090654 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Our dear listeners, we have just learned that since 0820 clashes have been taking place with light- and medium-caliber machineguns between the positions of the U.S. Marines, northeast of Beirut International Airport, and the emplacements at the outskirts of As-Sullum District in the southern suburbs. Security sources have informed us that the Marine positions have responded to the sources of fire after coming under fire since 0800.

Gunfire Exchanged at Al-'Amrusiyah

NC090809 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Marines and gunmen exchanged gunfire on the Al-'Amrusiyah axis at 0800 today. Shells fell on the airport's eastern runway. The shelling stopped after 30 minutes.

Two U.S. 'Elements' Injured

NC091000 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0935 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] A security source reports that the Marine positions in the airport perimeter came under rocket and mortar fire at 1100 today. This led to the injury of two U.S. elements. The Marine forces returned the fire and managed to destroy one of the emplacements with a Dragon rocket. The security source added that the transfer of Marines between land and sea is carried out according to operational requirements. The Marines go back to sea after completing their assignments. The same source denied rumors that the U.S. soldiers have pulled out from the land.

Army Intelligence Director To Leave for Damascus

NC082131 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] The security situation deteriorated in a serious manner this evening. Violent clashes took place between the Army positions

in Suq al-Gharb and gunmen in the opposite positions. Shells fell on Beirut and its southern and eastern suburbs and in many areas of the mountain. Intensive contacts were held to stop this deterioration and adhere to the cease-fire.

Colonel Simon Qassis, the director of intelligence in the Army Command, and Colonel Jean Nasif, the Army's representative in the Security Arrangements Committee, will leave for Damascus tomorrow to resume the contacts which the military delegation, comprising the two colonels, began 2 weeks ago with Walid Junblatt and the Amal Movement representative in the presence of Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. They are expected to discuss in Damascus the security situation in light of the recent escalation on the various axes. This escalation has continued to paralyze the public services and led to the closure of Beirut airport.

It has been learned that Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has asked the movement's representative in the committee, Dr Ayyub Humayid, to leave for Damascus to participate in the meetings.

Al-Wazzan Meets Rumsfeld, Makes Statement
NC091314 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] The developments in the north were the focus of attention during the prime minister's meeting today with U.S. presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld. Following his meetingwith the presidential envoy, Prime Minister Al-Wazzan made the following statement:

The meeting was important at this delicate stage when our demands have become obvious. I refer in particular to our demands to the United States to implement its commitments on security andthe Israeli withdrawal, consequently enabling us to restore our full sovereignty over every inch of Lebanese territory through the restoration of the legitimate authority there.

I raised the question of the south and the Israeli repressive measures in the area, which do not only evoke anger, but also evoke doubts over intentions and over the benefit of the discussions held.

I conveyed to Rumsfeld Lebanon's protest against this morning's Israeli aggression in the north near Tripoli, which was carried out on the pretext of the existence of a Palestinian center. This is totally rejected, regardless of the reasons, at a time when Israel is demanded to withdraw from Lebanon. I also expressed my astonishment over and rejection of the Israeli stance of resisting the operation of the Palestinians' departure from the north. I referred to the first U.S. working paper and its nine clauses which refer to the need for the departure of all non-Lebanese forces. I asked: How does Israel resist the Palestinians' departure when the original agreement stipulates the departure of the armed Paletinians?

Lebanon, which did not interfere in the inter-Palestinian conflict, adheres to the need to facilitate the process of the departure of the armed Palestinians the way it was agreed upon along the pattern of the plan which was followed in Beirut.

Salim Reviews Government Policy, Activity
NC081845 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies will resume its debate of the government policy on Monday. The debate began after Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim delivered a statement on behalf of the government. Today's session was held under Speaker Kamil al-As'ad. Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, the ministers, and 55 deputies attended the session.

In his statement, Foreign Minister Salim reviewed the government activity on the Arab, European, and American levels. Regarding the outcome of the Lebanese-U.S. talks conducted by President al-Jumayyil, Minister Salim said: We agreed on the formation of a joint high-level Lebanese-U.S. committee to take care, on a daily basis, of all the issues we raised and to draw up a timetable for the implementation of certain objectives, periodically assess its work, and present its suggestions to the senior political officials in Beirut and Washington. I can say that we have received U.S. reassurances regarding Israeli policy and regarding withdrawals. We shall work quickly with those concerned to achieve progress in the understanding about principles that will lead us to the desired agreements. There were positive U.S. positions regarding the aid we requested. The most important part of this aid is Washington's determination to go ahead with President Reagan's initiative in Lebanon and the area. This determination is strong and firm. The United States is prepared to face the difficulties and bear the responsibility of its decision, because it considers its failure in Lebanon as the beginning of a serious setback for its policy in the Middle East.

Regarding the talks which he will hold in Damascus tomorrow and then in Saudi Arabia, Minister Salim said: There are things with regard to the withdrawals which I shall discuss with my colleague in Syria tomorrow. I hope that the new page which has been opened between Beirut and Damascus will enable us, through coordination, to overcome the obstacles. Then Syria will have the honor of contributing to the liberation of a country dear to it, and we will have had the honor of accomplishing a task in which we have no choice. There are also several subjects which will be considered with Israel through the field liaison committee and with the serious assistance of the United States in order to begin the process of the Israeli withdrawal in coordination with the Lebanese state. The new U.S.-Israeli understanding could be an impetus to Israel to support the United States in its Lebanese policy and in cooperating with it to restore the south to Lebanese legal authority. Six deputies participated in the debate that followed Minister Salim's statement. They were Deputies Mukhaybir, Ad-Dahir, Na'im, Ar-Rafi'i, As-Sabbah, and Ad-Duwayhi. Deputy ad-Dahir said at the beginning of the debate that he thought that the session should be devoted to a debate of the statement without voting confidence in the government, because the president of the republic is holding consultations to form a new Cabinet. The statements of the deputies focused on the various incidents which took place after the Geneva conference, particularly what took place in Beirut, and called for implementation of the 17 May agreement if there is no alternative to it to liberate the land. This is apart from what 'Abd al-Majid ar-Rafi'i said, who called for amending the agreement.

Salim Visits Franjiyah To Discuss Developments
NC081446 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim arrived in Zgharta a short while ago on a visit to [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah to discuss the outcome of President al-Jumayyil's tour, the various developments which have taken place, and the requirements for the stage through which Lebanon is passing.

Al-Jumayyil To Visit London 13 December
NC090637 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Excerpt] President Amin Al-Jumayyil will visit London on 13 December for talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and senior U.K. officials.

Amal Movement on Security Meetings Suspension
NC081922 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Commenting on the decision of the Army's representative in the Security Arrangements Committee to suspend his participation in the committee meetings, an Amal Movement source said that the movement's representative attended the committee meetings without break since the beginning of the committee meetings. His absence recently was due to the government's invitation to discuss a security plan in Rome. The movement delegated another representative to fill the vacuum during his absence. The source said that the movement's representative has the right to decide without having to go back to his command, and raised the question of abductions and counter-abductions. [sentence as heard]

The source said that the Amal Movement affirms to the citizens its true desire to calm the situation in preparation for clearing the land of weapons and gunmen and restoring normal life in the country. While it is eager to ensure the comfort of the citizens, the movement must remain fully prepared and maintain extreme caution regarding all suspect schemes.

Spokesman on Downing of Israeli 'Air Target'

JN091628 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1620 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] A military spokesman has reported the following:

At 1203 on Friday, 9 December 1983, a formation of Israeli planes overflew our forces' positions in the Dahr al-Qadib area in fraternal Lebanon. Our air defense units confronted the formation and, after hitting one plane, forced it to flee westward.

At 1612 this afternoon, an Israeli air target penetrated Syrian Arab airspace southwest of Tartus. Our air defense units confronted it and shot it down. The target was seen falling into the sea.

Reportage on Cables Sent, Received by Al-Asad

Soviets To 'Bolster Ties'

JN081517 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 8 Dec (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad has received a cable from the Soviet leadership stressing that it will continue its course of bolstering and promoting the ties between the USSR and Syria, and of extending support for the Syrian Arab people in accordance with the bilateral treaty of friendship and cooperation.

In its cable of thanks, which was addressed to President al-Asad in response to his congratulations on the anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the Soviet leadership stressed the USSR's determination to support the Arab peoples in their struggle for their rights and the establishment of a firm peace in the Middle East.

'Concern' Expressed to Craxi

AU081409 Rome ANSA in English 0830 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, December 8 — Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has written a letter to Italian Premier Bettino Craxi expressing his concern about the escalation of tension in the Mideast, the premier's office disclosed on Wednesday.

In the missive, Al-Asad expressed the hope that the Italian Government will undertake new initiatives aimed at relaunching dialogue and negotiations among the different factions in the Middle East. The Syrian president also praised Italy for its long-standing efforts in behalf of peace.

GDR's Fischer Receives Message

JN081758 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Berlin — The SED Central Committee has received a message from President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with developments in the Middle East in light of the attack on Syrian forces in Lebanon by U.S. planes. Faysal Summaq, Syrian ambassador in Berlin, handed the message to Oskar Fischer, member of the SED Central Committee and foreign minister, during their meeting in Berlin today. He also conveyed Al-Asad's greetings to Erich Honecker, chairman of the GDR State Council.

During their talks, views were exchanged on the situation in the Middle East and the grave developments which have arisen there as a result of the U.S.-Israeli escalation and their continued aggression. Fischer affirmed his country's support for Syria's just struggle — under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad — against imperialist and Zionist designs.

At the end of their meeting, Fischer asked Summaq to convey greetings of friendship from Chairman Honecker to President al-Asad.

Elie Salim Arrives, Meets With Khaddam

JN091312 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Dispatch by Louis Faris, Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus — live or recorded]

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim arrived in Damascus this morning. He was accompanied by Colonel Simon Kassis, head of the Lebanese military intelligence; and Colonel Jean Nasif, chairman of the security liaison committee. Khaddam gave his counterpart a warm reception, and immediately held a 2-hour round of talks with him.

Salim told newsmen afterwards that the meeting was extremely fruitful. He said that he informed Khaddam of the Washington talks, and that the significance and repercussions of certain points were discussed. Dr Salim added that they reviewed all issues of joint interest to Syria and Lebanon. He revealed that both sides agreed to coordinate all the political moves and steps that one or both of them may take concerning the Lebanese situation. Salim also said that Syria and Lebanon are linked by excellent neighborly ties, which they intend to maintain. His comment was: We are very happy with Syria's sympathy and its understanding of our problems. We would also like to be sure that Syria and the United States will be able to use political contacts and diplomatic channels to remove the differences and tensions between them. Khaddam and I have agreed to solve all the issues related to Lebanon by political and diplomatic means.

Salim then met with Rashid Karami, who earlier received the members of the political and security committees formed by the Tripoli Higher Coordination Committee. Dr Salim also met with a representative of the Islamic movement in Tripoli. Salim then left for talks with Walid Junblatt. That session is still in progress, and the Lebanese minister is due to leave Damascus for Saudi Arabia later today.

Ba'th Party Official Receives Walid Junblatt

JN081312 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, today received Walid Junblatt, leader of the

Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], who was accompanied by Marwan Hamadah and Riyadh Ra'd, of the PSP leadership.

Their talks were devoted to a review of the latest Lebanese and Arab developments. They discussed the security situation in Beirut, southern Beirut, and in the mountains; the attempts to resort to a military solution; and the obstacles being placed in the path of the Lebanese dialogue conference with the aim of preventing it from reaching its target of reconciliation. They agreed that the Americans do not want the dialogue conference to succeed, but instead wish to keep their forces in Lebanon and impose their hegemony over it.

They stressed the need for the Lebanese national resistance forces to continue their operations against the occupation, to confront the American and Israeli aggressors, to face their provocations, and to refuse to be subjugated by pressure and blackmail. They also stressed the need to make all possible efforts to achieve Lebanese national reconciliation. The representatives of the two parties pledged to continue their cooperation to strengthen the mass struggle under the leadership of the Lebanese National Salvation Front so as to attain Lebanon's unity, freedom, and independence while maintaining its Arab affiliation.

Libya's Jallud Meets PLO Dissidents, Lebanese

LD082224 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] In Damascus this morning, Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud met with Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syria's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. He also met with Brother Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front-General Command, and with Brothers Abu Salih, Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], Qadri, and Abu Akram, all of whom are members of the (?leadership) of the new revolutionary movement in Fatah. Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud also met with Brothers Talal Naji, member of the PLO Executive Committee and assistant secretary of the Popular Front-General Command; Muhammad Khalifah, secretary of the PLO Executive Committee and assistant regional secretary of As-Sa'iqah; Khalid 'Abd al-Majid, assistant secretary of the Popular Struggle Front.

At noon today he also met with brother Khalid Al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, and 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, member of the PLO Executive Committee. He also met Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

This morning he met with Brother Rashid Karami, former prime minister of Lebanon and head of the Higher Coordination Committee in Tripoli. This evening he met with Brother Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party and member of the leadership of the Lebanese National Salvation Committee.

Notes U.S. 'Aggression'

LD091113 Tripoli JANA in English 0948 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Al Awal 4, Dec 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Staff-Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud has said that Syria, the Jamahiriyah and other national forces are determined to confront the U.S. aggression and the tenth crusade campaign which is being unleashed against the Arab nation and Islam. He said that these forces start in the same trench against the aggression.

Staff Major Jallud added in a statement in Damascus that the Arab region will become the new Vietnam if the U.S. administration continued in its hostile schemes.

He also praised in his statement the steadfastness of the Lebanese people and their patriotic leadership in their struggle against the hostile designs on the Arab nation. "This small people, despite their limited resources, have great accumulated traditions in patriotic struggle which enable them to defeat the imperialist schemes."

On the current Palestinian situation, he said, we strongly oppose any concession on the Palestinian cause in favour of the American design and strongly support those who want to put an end to 'Arafat course in favour of a revolutionary leadership. We are also opposed to the evacuation of Palestinian fighters from Lebanon and appeal to 'Arafat's followers, who are being misled by him to support the Lebanese national forces and side with Syria against the imperialist scheme and the crusade campaign which has been unleashed against the Arab nation.

Comments on Tripoli, Departs

JN091315 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Dispatch by Louis Faris, Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus — live or recorded]

[Text] According to Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, the official Syrian media completely ignored the Israeli attack on Tripoli. Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, Libya's number two man, described the news about the Israeli naval blockade of Tripoli as a theatrical. Major Jallud left Damascus today. Before his departure, he held a news conference in which he was asked about the position he would take were Israel to attack 'Arafat and his supporters. Jallud answered sarcastically: The question should be — Is 'Arafat with the Israelis or the Arabs?

Jallud was also asked about the presence of Libyan submarines near Lebanese territorial waters. He replied: Those reports are a joke being spread by the U.S. Administration in order to deceive the Amercian people. As for Libya's support of Syria, Jallud noted: Libya stands by Syria with all the means available to it. It also supports the Lebanese National Salvation Front, and will secure fighters for the Front if asked to do so. He described Libyan-Syrian ties as strong, and declared that the two countries' resources are unified. While in Damascus, Jallud met

with Syrian and Palestinian leaders, as well as with officials from the Lebanese National Salvation Front.

Further Reportage on Ash-Shar' Press Conference
JN081503 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 8 Dec (SANA) — Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, declared that the U.S. raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon has greatly exacerbated regional tension and proven once again — in a tangible manner — that the United States is biased toward one Lebanese party to the detriment of all others.

Speaking to Arab and foreign correspondents, Ash-Shar' added that by concluding a strategic agreement with Israel, the United States has blatantly put itself on that country's side against all the Arabs, their interests, and their pan-Arab aspirations.

Ash-Shar' stressed that Syria and the Arab nation would inevitably confront such serious U.S. measures with determination and firmness.

Ash-Shar' refuted the claims of U.S. officials to the effect that American planes have a right to overfly Syrian positions in Lebanon. He described these claims as void and completely unconvincing. He added: There are no forces in Lebanon which enjoy a stronger legitimacy than those of Syria.

In reply to a question concerning the upcoming tour of several Arab countries by U.S. presidential envoy Rumsfeld, the purpose of which is to contain the wave of Arab indignation at the U.S. escalation of the situation, Ash-Shar' said: The U.S. envoy's tour will not succeed in appeasing the fears of Arab regimes. Nor will it be able to attenuate the waves of indignation against U.S. policy in the region. He also noted that: The United States must stop ridiculing the Arab mentality.

Ash-Shar' drew the correspondents' attention to the gravity of the justifications formulated by the United States concerning its raid on Syrian positions. He said: These justifications are more serious than the raid itself, as they make it appear as though the United States has definitely adopted the Israeli concept on security. According to this concept, the Israelis believe themselves to have a natural right to commit any act of aggression against the Arabs on the pretext of self-defense.

Ash-Shar' declared: Since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the U.S. Administration has been correcting its mistakes by committing additional mistakes, far greater than the previous ones. The U.S. soldiers killed in Lebanon were victims of their government's mistakes. The Syrian minister added: Had the Syrian [word indistinct] carried out reconnaissance sorties over the 6th Fleet, the Americans would not have been content to merely take some keepsake photos of them.

In reply to reports by certain news agencies on the dispatch of Soviet forces to Syria and the promotion of the friendship treaty to the level of a strategic alliance as a means of confronting the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance, the minister said: Syria is sufficiently strong to defend itself against any possible aggression. At any rate, our Soviet friends have openly said that Syria is not Grenada and that they strongly support it. Syria has numerous friends in the world. Should there be any act of U.S.-Israeli aggression against us, the entire world would oppose it.

The minister added that Syria will never be an obstacle in the path of a just and comprehensive peace. However, the United States and Israel do not believe in peace as an end in itself, but only as a means for imposing their joint hegemony on the Arabs, something which Syria rejects and vehemently resists.

On the possibility of resuming the Lebanese national reconciliation conference in Geneva, Ash-Shar' said: Israel and the United States have placed additional obstacles in the path of the Geneva conference through their strategic alliance and joint military escalation. The minister affirmed Syria's resolve to do its utmost to stop the bloodshed in Lebanon and assist in achieving national accord despite those very real obstacles.

To a question by a Western journalist on the timing of the U.S. raid on Syrian positions during the president's indisposition, the minister said: President Hafiz al-Asad's health has been improving satisfactorily for some time now. He follows events, signs important decrees, and gives directives to the Syrian leadership and government, despite the fact that his doctors have advised him to rest and exercise for a while. He walks 10 km daily and his health is good. Anyone who thinks otherwise is mistaken. Syria's principled course is strong and unwavering. [sentence as received]

Responding to a question as to whether Syrian forces will strike at U.S. planes should they again attempt to overfly Syrian positions in Lebanon, Ash-Shar' said: Certainly, because this issue is related to the heart of our national dignity and to Syria's legitimate right to self-defense, particularly since our forces are not the ones stationed opposite U.S. shores.

Al-Ahmar Receives GDR Culture Minister 8 Dec
JN081524 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, received GDR Culture Minister Dr Hans-Joachim Hoffman this morning.

During their meeting, the two sides exchanged views on various aspects of the relations existing between the two friendly countries and parties, and on the political situation in the Arab region, Europe, and the world.

Comrade al-Ahmar explained the latest developments in the Arab region, which are a result of the continuing Israeli occupation of Lebanon and other Arab territories, the presence of U.S. and NATO forces in Lebanon, and the series of U.S.-Zionist provocations against the Syrian forces.

Al-Ahmar added: This shows that these provocations are the beginning of a U.S. campaign of aggression against Syria which has been prepared for some time. The comrade assistant secretary general stressed that Syria will staunchly and courageously

confront U.S. aggression and all forces that seek to harm Syria's independence or attack its units in Lebanon. Comrade al-Ahmar added that under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and the united front presented by its people, Syria will stand as a rock in the face of any act of aggression and will defend the Arab nation, its interests, and objectives.

Comrade al-Ahmar pointed to the support that the GDR and the other states of the socialist bloc — foremost of which is the USSR — have shown for Syria's stands, stressing that there is but one battle of freedom in the world.

The GDR minister praised the Syrian Arab stand, which confronts U.S.-Zionist aggression. He stressed his country's support for Syria's steadfast confrontation of aggression and its measures to defend itself. He asserted that Syria will not be alone in confronting the aggressors and that all forces of peace and freedom — foremost of which are the states of the socialist bloc — stand beside Syria.

TISHRIN Views Rumsfeld's Visit to Region

JN081156 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0815 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 8 Dec (SANA) — In its editorial today, *TISHRIN* declares that in the wake of the first U.S. raid against Syrian positions in Lebanon, the propagandists for the submissive and frightened parties began to spread rumors that Syria may become more flexible and willing to respond in its dealings with the United States. This propaganda accompanied the dispatch of a U.S. envoy to the region. He is making his trip to brief Egypt and Jordan on the results of both the Shamir-Reagan talks and Al-Jumayyil's visit.

TISHRIN adds: Through its latest moves, Washington will naturally try to delude those Arabs whom Rumsfeld visits into believing that the Shamir-Arens visit to the U.S. capital produced some positive results; that is, something other than raids and acts of aggression. Efforts will also be made to describe the U.S.-Israeli aggression as falling within the category of self-defense, just as if one of the American states had been exposed to the danger of Syrian planes. *TISHRIN* explains that the U.S. envoy's job is to absorb the indignation of the region and the world in accordance with Washington's policy, which has the objective of containing the region and imposing hegemony over it. He must also convince the Arabs that the United States has great and vital interests that require the adoption of a joint strategy with Israel to strike at Syria. In this way, U.S. peace efforts will progress without difficulties or obstacles.

TISHRIN notes: Rumsfeld may find some Arabs convinced of this stand, but he will definitely not find a regime or individual in the region who is convinced that there can be a positive and neutral U.S. stand toward the Arab-Israeli conflict. *TISHRIN* concludes: The U.S. envoy may hear things that please him from the friends of the United States, but this will stem from the fact that they will say only what what the United States wants to hear. In any event, Rumsfeld will not succeed in making Syria budge one inch from its stand concerning dialogue with the United States or the U.S. conditions presented by the Reagan administration. Syria believes that the U.S. Administration is waging undeclared war against it, and it is on this basis that Syria will act politically and militarily.

Commentary on Mission

JN081604 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration has distorted facts and reality. The unrealistic amicability toward the Arabs and the unlimited alliance with Israel are two things which Reagan will fail to bring together. Accordingly, the new U.S. presidential envoy's tour comes within the framework of the diplomatic campaign that Reagan approved as the completion of his agreement with the Zionist leadership. U.S. officials' statements summarize certain intentions that fall within the constant U.S. logic of serving the Israeli interests and meeting U.S. aspirations toward subjugating the Arab homeland to Washington's will.

At a time when Shultz and Shamir agree that common interests is the fact behind the U.S.-Israeli alliance, and when Reagan affirms that those interests are confronted by the Syrian obstacle, Rumsfeld comes to the region frankly declaring that he wants to persuade the Arabs of the correctness of the U.S. efforts and the need for the Arabs to isolate Syria. Reagan, Shultz, and Rumsfeld have forgotten that despite the Arabs' different opinions, they are convinced that the Zionist danger threatens them, the U.S.-Israeli alliance jeopardizes their existence, and the encroachment on Syria's steadfastness means the destruction of the wall that protects their nation and homeland.

We do not doubt that the United States has its own friends, but we are confident that these friends will not be stronger than the masses' will which rose against the first direct U.S. challenge to Syria. This challenge has placed before Reagan a direct confrontation not only with the Arabs, but also with the American people, who were awakened by the downing of their planes and immediately remembered that Reagan was renewing the pains of Vietnam. If the Reagan administration believes that it can conspire against the Arabs regarding their existence, then it tries to subject the laws of nature to fallacies whose implementation is impossible. Although the U.S. diplomats have found some figures in Egypt who make them feel reassured, these diplomats are confident that these figures will not be able to paralyze Egypt's Arabism. If there are some Arabs who have accepted the U.S. justifications for military interference in Lebanon and confrontation against Syria, they will not find among the Arab people what they have found among those agents who accepted the alliance with Israel through U.S. amicability.

The imbalanced friendship which Reagan has assumed to be present with the Arabs will not be the alternative for a nation's will, the blood of whose sons was shed by the U.S. Administration for Israel's sake. The United States is wagering on its amicability that is injected with hatred, while we in Syria are wagering on the inevitability of the surprise that will turn all U.S. expectations in the region upside down.

With regard to the Arabs, Syria is the heart, and with regard to the Arab homeland, it is the wall of safety. Therefore, can Rumsfeld and Shultz isolate the body from the source of its life? Regardless of all these facts, Syria did not decide to defend its principles depending on what the possibilities might produce. When Syria decided to adopt the stand of confrontation, it depended on its conviction that its capabilites can deter those who have planned to encroach on its steadfastness and ideology. Syria has numerous established facts which prove that all U.S. diplomatic campaigns have alwasy been a cover for Israeli military actions. An Israeli military action, this time, will take place with direct U.S. participation.

The United States hints at forcing the Syrian forces to leave Lebanon — those forces that are defending Lebanon and its people — at a time when it instructs Israel and its agents to be highly prepared in order to seek revenge from those who are defending their Arabism and homeland in Lebanon. Therefore, within this conspiracy, will Rumsfeld's mission be either peaceful, or favorable to the Arab nation? Israel is the party that is occupying Lebanon's territory and arresting one third of its people. Thus, Rumsfeld will not be able to convince anyone other than the U.S. agents of the fact that the Zionists' occupation of southern Lebanon is only for self-defense. Was the occupation of Palestine and the Golan, as well as Egypt's detachment from the Arab body, also considered as self-defense?

Regardless of the intentions that Reagan's diplomacy and administration are hiding, Syria has long experience in dealing with U.S. deceit, which makes it more capable of interpreting and exposing U.S. intentions. The withdrawal from Lebanon is a Syrian decision, not an Amercian one. Syria has made its decision to liberate Lebanon from the Zionist occupation without regard to the U.S. and Israeli conditions and proposals. It did so in conformity with the Lebanese nationalist will and the right of peoples to resist invaders according to international resolutions and charters, and out of the right to defend oneself and one's existence.

AL-BA'TH Comments on NATO's 'Intentions'

JN090922 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In an article entitled "Not For the Sake of Lebanon Are the NATO Countries Meeting," *AL-BA'TH* says: Many of the Western powers' intentions have been revealed at the NATO alliance headquarters. The reasons for dispatching their forces to Beirut under the guise of the Multinational Forces are now clear. The NATO alliance needs to rest its forces on the eastern Mediterranean coast. Israel's invasion of Lebanon has given it the pretext of doing so. The official Lebanese acceptance has provided legitimate cover for the allied forces. The argument that the Multinational Forces have come to Beirut to protect Lebanese territorial integrity, save its southern area from Zionist occupation, or protect the Lebanese people and their homes should be ruled out, because the U.S. ships are indiscriminately shelling Beirut and because Paris, Washington, and London are only interested in protecting those who welcomed the Zionist invasion and provided the NATO alliance with the legal backing to interfere in Lebanon and its affairs.

AL-BA'TH adds: The NATO allies have never rushed to discuss the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights. What made them rush to meet and discuss Lebanon? The answer to this question was provided by Shultz, Cheysson, and Thatcher — namely, that the Lebanese opportunity is invaluable. In other words, NATO and Israel want to clamp a siege around Syria; without Lebanon, this siege could not be completed and the United States would not be able to subjugate the region. The NATO allies refused to withdraw from Beirut. Shultz opposed the Zionist withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Shamir said: The United States and Israel have common interests in Lebanon. Reagan considered Syria to be a source of threat to his policy.

Thus, the Western claims about seeking to preserve Lebanon's independence and unity have not come true. We may ask a question: If the Western allies are peaceful, and if they mean well, why all of these French, U.S., and British concentrations? Why should the peace force need protection from the people for whose safety this force claims to be working. The U.S. force does not intend to deploy in and around the Lebanese capital because it is peaceful, but because the force is preparing to implement the plan Shultz presented to his allies. The attack on southern Beirut and Ash-Shuf has been clearly stipulated by the U.S. plan. This attack will inflame rather than pacify the Lebanese situation.

Mitterrand may want to avenge France's defeats in the tripartite aggression against Suez and in North Africa. The United States also wants to retaliate against the Syrian role that paralyzed Camp David, aborted the Shultz agreement, and raised Arab strength to such a level that the United States was forced to declare its alliance with Israel, because U.S. airlifts are powerless in the face of the new balance of power. Thus, it becomes clear that the Western powers intend to commit aggression regardless of the pretexts under which the U.S. presidential envoy is visiting the region, and no matter how the West justifies the Marines' redeployment in and around Beirut. If the French have forgotten Dien Bien Phu, and the Americans have forgotten Ho Chi Minh, they must know that southern Beirut and Ash-Shuf will remind them. Syria will be the obstacle that will foil their designs and plots.

Communist Party Condemns U.S. 'Aggression'

JN071430 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — The Syrian Communist Party [SCP] has condemned the barbaric act of aggression which Washington's rulers prepared and conducted against Syrian positions in Lebanon. In a statement published here today, the SCP declared that this act of aggression is part of a comprehensive U.S. strategy aimed at dominating the world, striking at national liberation movements, and threatening humanity with a destructive nuclear war.

Israeli Navy Shells PLO Base Near Tripoli

TA090510 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Israeli naval boats last night shelled a PLO operational base north of Tripoli in Lebanon. There were no Israeli casualties; accurate hits have been reported. The IDF spokesman announces that the terrorist base is located outside Tripoli about 1 km north of the harbor, on the seashore. It is a fortified encampment, containing tents, huts, and vehicles, and surrounded by earthworks.

Shamir Criticizes 'Arafat, PLO Evacuation

TA081157 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1120 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Report by Elihu Ben-On from the Sha'arey Tzedeq Hospital in Jerusalem on 8 December — recorded]

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir today went to the Sah'arey Tzedeq Hospital where he visited the injured from the Jerusalem attack. Eighteen people remained in the various wards of the hospital, two were released this morning, and four are still in critical condition. The prime minister entered the intensive care unit and visited the injured people, some of whom are still unconscious.

When the prime minister left a few minutes ago he thanked the medical team for the good treatment it gave to the injured. He was then asked about some current issues. The first question that the other correspondents and I posed to him concerned the PLO's evacuation from Tripoli. The PLO assumed responsibility for the terrorist act involving the bus in Jerusalem, while 'Arafat is now leaving Tripoli by UN ships — what is Israel's reaction to this?

[Begin recording] [Shamir] Well, we take a grave view of the fact that the UN organization, whose task is to guard peace in the world, gives protection to the leaders of an organization that admits, most openly, that it has perpetrated this abominable crime.

[Yoram Ronen] Mr Shamir, how do we view the calls voiced by Minister Sharon and others that 'Arafat should not be allowed to get out alive?

[Shamir] We take all appeals on this into consideration and discuss everything proposed to us.

[Ronen] Mr Shamir, it is impossible today to avoid reference to what happened to Deputy Prime Minister David Levi.

[Shamir] There is no connection between this and the issue you just raised.

[Ben-On] Mr Shamir, another question, regarding the Arab leaders in the territories. How do you view the announcement they released in which they condemn the explosion on the bus?

[Shamir] This constitutes a positive phenomenon. [end recording]

[Ben-On] The prime minister then said that Israel takes a grave view of the fact that UN ships will be the ones to evacuate 'Arafat from Tripoli. The PLO assumed responsibility for the terrorist act in the Jerusalem bus.

Sends Message to UN

TA081732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister has urged the UN secretary general to call off all the arrangements to help the terrorists get out of Tripoli in ships sponsored by the United Nations. This is reported by our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer. In a message to the UN secretary general, the prime minister emphasizes that the PLO has assumed responsibility for the attack on the bus in Jerusalem.

UN Ambassador on Evacuation

TA090947 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Israel's ambassador to the United Nations stated that contacts in New York regarding Israel's request that the UN not accord protection to terrorists evacuated from Tripoli would continue. Ambassador Blum told our correspondent that Israel had not requested United States assistance in this matter.

Levi Condemns UN Evacuation

TA081201 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1122 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi by Hayim Hecht on 8 December; place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Hecht] David Levi states: We will cope with the terrorists in all arenas; those who perpetrated the abominable act in Jerusalem will be punished.

[Levi] As for the exit of 'Arafat and his murderers from Tripoli under UN protection, this demonstrates to everyone the hypocrisy inherent in the United Nations, which did nothing when in the past this murderous organization crossed UN-controlled lines and wreaked destruction, shelled villages, and murdered civilians. Today, under the UN flag, this organization is given protection, immunity, and refuge.

[Hecht] Is the position that Minister Sharon stated, that Israel will make a mistake if it allows 'Arafat to escape from Tripoli alive, acceptable to you? This is the question we posed to the deputy prime minister. In addition we wanted to know whether, in the framework of the agreement on the prisoner exchange, Israel undertook to enable 'Arafat to leave Tripoli?

[Levi] As far as I know Israel has not entered into any agreement. Israel is firmly opposed to this UN move. As for Israel's position on the evacuation, the government, and not an individual minister, makes the decision.

[Hecht] In other words, there is a decision today whereby Israel will not hinder in any way 'Arafat's exit from Tripoli?

[Levi] I did not say there is such a decision, nor can I give a hint that there is a contrary decision. These are matters we had better keep quiet about.

HATZOFE Comments on Evacuation

TA081359 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 8 Dec 83 p 2

[Editorial: "'Arafat Must Not Be Allowed To Escape"

[Text] The PLO has claimed responsibility for the bombing of the bus in Jerusalem. In this attack four people were killed and dozens wounded. Among the dead were small children and old people, and the wounded included men, women, and children. This attack is both criminal and cowardly.

From time to time people try to portray the PLO chief as a moderate leader, claiming that if he were to be eliminated this would only result in a more extremist leadership. The real Yasir 'Arafat is revealed in this attack on a Jerusalem bus and in similar attacks, whether these were successful or foiled by the security forces.

The real Yasir 'Arafat is a mass murderer, who directs his weapons at children, women, and old people. That is the man we are dealing with and he should be treated accordingly. Therefore the task before the enlightened world and Israel today is to prevent this criminal from escaping. Now he is trapped in Tripoli and every possible effort must be made to ensure that he does not escape from there to a place where he can continue his operations with impunity. There can be no accepting the contention that arrangements should be made for him to leave Tripoli for humanitarian reasons. The blood of children that was shed in Jerusalem can only be atoned for by the blood of the man responsible.

Sources Expect Restrained Reaction to Explosion

TA081038 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Dec p 2

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Excerpt] Last night political sources pointed out that it had been decided, for the time being, to use restraint and refrain from a sharp reaction to the bus explosion that occurred in Jerusalem 2 days ago, since the security forces have not yet concluded their investigation into the explosion and it is still not certain who was responsible for placing the explosive charge inside the bus.

These sources noted that it had been decided, in the course of consultations by high-ranking political and defense sources, to wait before striking at the terrorist organizations until it was clear beyond any doubt just who was responsible for this terrorist attack in the capital. The sources denied reports claiming that Israel had been asked by the United States to use restraint in the case of the bus attack and refrain from a military reaction.

Tension Continues in Jerusalem; Arab Cars Burned

TA090752 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Further indications of the tension that has been evident in Judaea, Samaria and Jerusalem these past days are that six cars belonging to Arab residents were set on fire at 0500 this morning in the Abu Tor quarter of Jerusalem. Local residents alerted the police, who arrived within minutes together with the fire brigade, and the fires were extinguished. However, the cars have sustained heavy damage. This happened in an area of closely adjacent Jewish and Arab quarters. The police have begun investigations.

Grenades Found, Dismantled

TA090800 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0753 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Two more handgrenades were discovered this morning in Jerusalem, near Christian religious institutions. One was found near the Orthodox Seminary on Mt Zion, and the second near the Dormition Church in the Old City. Both grenades were defused by police sappers without any damage being caused. Our correspondent notes that earlier this morning, at about 0630, a device consisting of two grenades was found near the Franciscan Church on Mt Zion, and this, too, was safely dismantled.

Labor Party Praises West Bank Leaders Reaction

TA081221 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] The Labor Party takes a positive view of the condemnation issued by West Bank Arab leaders of the terrorist act in Jerusalem. The Labor Party's announcement states that this disavowal of insane murder is worthy of note, and may also be a sign of readiness for coexistence and neighborly relations.

Girl Killed in Nabulus Shooting Incident 8 Dec

TA081745 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] An 11-year-old girl from Nabulus was shot to death today and her sister was severely wounded. This is reported by our correspondents Arye Gus and Shalom Oren. The circumstances of the shooting are not yet clear. According to an eyewitness, an Israeli vehicle was stoned by youths and the passengers were the ones who opened the deadly fire. The Israeli vehicle later fled from the scene. The girls were taken to the Rafidiyah Hospital in Nabulus. The security forces are currently looking into the affair. Our correspondents report that upon hearing the shots, local inhabitants locked themselves in their houses.

Earlier, the security forces raided the building of the workers unions in Nabulus and arrested several youths.

A private vehicle from the settlement of Berhakha was stoned this evening. The car was driving to Qedummim and was stoned on the outskirts of Nabulus. The car's windows were shattered. A bus belonging to Qiryat Arba' which was driving workers from

Jerusalem was also stoned this evening. The bus stopped, and the passengers chased the stonethrowers but did not apprehend them.

Curfew Imposed on Nabulus

TA090535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] A curfew has been imposed on the casbah in Nabulus. The area where an 11-year old girl was killed by shots fired by unknown persons last night is also closed off. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the hunt for these persons went on throughout the night. Investigations revealed that the fatal shots were fired by automatic weapons, and the assailants were not IDF soldiers.

Publisher Blames Abu Nidal in Bus Blast

TA081253 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] For the first time, leading Palestinians from East Jerusalem and the territories have condemned the bombing against an Israeli target. They came out against the attack on the No. 18 civilian bus in Jerusalem 2 days ago. With more details, Jerry Cheslow:

[Begin recording] [Cheslow] The five who issued the condemnation were the desposed mayors of Ramallah and Hebron, Karim Khalaf and Mustafa 'Abd an-Nabi an-Natshsh; the chairman of the East Jerusalem electric company, Anwar Nusaybah; and the publishers of the *AL-FAJR* newspaper, Paul 'Ajluni and Hanna Siniora.

Their statement said that the attack on the bus was harmful to any effort to reach Israeli-Palestinian understanding. Siniora said that he condemns the bombing on both political and humanitarian grounds.

[Siniora] I want to see an end to violence on both Palestinian and Israeli sides, because I am in pain to see what happened last year in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Ar-Rashidiyah camps, and just a few days ago in Beirut, and the day before yesterday in the Egged bus No. 18. I believe the Palestinians have to take a stand against civilian violence and it is the right time to do it now.

[Cheslow] The Palestinian leadership, the Palestinian intellectuals like yourself — why has it taken you so long to condemn violence?

[Siniora] This is the appropriate time to talk about it because now we are at the crossroads of international recognition, when we have to get on the bandwagon of a peaceful settlement.

[Cheslow] Siniora, whose paper is identified with the mainstream Fatah Movement in the PLO, says that he does not believe the statement put out by the PLO news agency WAFA claiming responsibility. He says the Abu Nidal [Hasan al-Banna] group based in Damascus carried out the bombing. His own statement, Siniora said, was directed at the Israeli public, in gratitude for demonstrations that followed the Sabra and Shatila massacre. It is our way of saying that there are Palestinians who want a dialogue, he said. As to the question of how the condemnation might be received by the PLO, Siniora replied: So far, no one has come out against it. [end recording]

Leaders Comment on Nabulus

TA082015 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Two of the public figures from the territories who issued a condemnation yesterday of the explosion on the Jerusalem bus have said that what happened in Nabulus today reinforces the call to stop attacks against civilians. Mustafa 'Abd an-Nabi An-Natshah, the dismissed mayor of Hebron, and Hanna Siniora, the editor of *AL-FAJR*, told our correspondent Arye Gus that they did not regret the condemnation they issued. Siniora said that what happened in Nabulus today proves that it is not only the Arabs who attack the civilian population.

Shamir Meets Herut Ministers on Levi Dispute

TA081236 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] David Levi yesterday secretly met with Yitzhaq Shamir and raised his claim regarding the campaign of slander conducted against him. Our correspondent Hayim Zissovitz says that the meeting was a private one in Yitzhaq Shamir's office in the Knesset. Apparently following this, David Levi held a news conference in which he attacked the prime minister's confidants.

This morning, the prime minister conferred with a number of Herut ministers to discuss the crisis regarding Minister David Levi. The deputy prime minister himself did not participate in the meeting. Upon leaving the meeting, Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad said that the problems between the prime minister and the ministers should be solved between the persons concerned, and that any additional comment is uncalled for. He hopes that a contest along the lines of that in the Alignment will not begin in Herut.

Levi Comments After Talk

TA091030 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] AT the conclusion of his talk with Yitzhaq Shamir Minister David Levi says that the understanding between them has been strengthened regarding the appointment of a foreign minister. We now move to the prime minister's office and our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer:

[Schiffer — live] I am not standing here with a stopwatch in my hand, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said on emerging from the prime minister's office.

[Begin Levi recording] An understanding on this matter was strengthened even more today, and as for the date and the timing, that will be decided on by us. That was not the central issue. I said before and I say again: The bad atmosphere, which certain

elements were at pains to create — elements which claim to be close confidants of the prime minister — damages comradeship and the possibility of full collaboration. I made these things unequivocally clear to the prime minister. The talk was serious, but beneficial. He showed understanding. [end recording]

Arens Leaves for U.S.; Meron May Head Joint Group

TA090952 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Dec 83 p 1

[Report by Dan Arkin and from New York by Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens left after midnight yesterday for New York to receive an honorary doctorate from the Yeshiva University. He is scheduled to arrive there this morning and to return to Israel this coming Tuesday. Upon his departure Professor Arens refused to answer questions on political and partisan issues. This coming Monday he will deliver a lecture at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

Defense Ministry Director General Menahem Meron is expected to be the senior Israeli representative to the joint Israeli-U.S. military-political group.

Sharon Demands 'Steps' Against Ambassador Lewis

TA090540 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon demanded earlier this week that the prime minister take steps against the United States Ambassador in Israel [Samuel W. Lewis], because the latter had demanded that Sharon be ousted from the Defense Ministry. Yitzhaq Shamir has so far not replied to this demand.

IDF Officers Unhappy at Criticism of U.S. Raid

TA081217 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Dec 83p 2

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Haber]

[Text] Criticism voiced this week by a number of senior reserve officers regarding the air strikes carried out by U.S. naval aircraft in Lebanon, during which two planes were downed, has given rise to displeasure in senior IDF and Israeli Air Force circles. They are saying in the IDF that "this is not serious criticism," following articles published and statements made by senior reserve officers in the media earlier this week. A senior Israeli Air Force officer this week came out for the first time with a public comment: "The area in which the U.S. planes operated is saturated with anti-aircraft weapons," he said. "This is one of the heaviest and densest anti-aircraft systems in the world today. Manning this system are Syrian operators who have combat experience in anti-aircraft fire." In fact, during the U.S. air strikes dozens of missiles were fired at the planes, including shoulder-fired missiles and SAM-9's. "Nevertheless," the officer continued, "to the best of our knowledge the Americans achieved good hits on their targets." The senior Air Force officer also referred to the quality of the U.S. pilots: "We have been acquainted with American pilots for many years. They are good pilots. The criticism of them was not serious, nor were the published reports to the effect that the planes were dated. These reports had no basis. While these planes were first produced many years ago, given the alterations to them over the years, they are first-rate planes from the viewpoint of sophisticated technology." The officer summed up by saying: "It is not a serious thing to do — to come out with that kind of statement; that the strikes were not serious, that the pilots were not good. We also had a plane downed in Lebanon about 2 weeks ago. The U.S. operation was criticized by people who did not have the details. There was no room whatsoever for any fault finding — the contrary was the case."

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres yesterday also referred to the U.S. air strike. According to Peres, Syria used new weapons in downing the two U.S. planes in Lebanon. He said that he was unable to provide details, and that he did not know exactly what these weapons were, "but I know the weapons are in Syria's possession and that these are new weapons."

The newspaper *AL-'AMAL* wrote in Beirut yesterday that in the U.S. air strike, 15 Syrian anti-aircraft missile positions were destroyed and the Syrian 83d Brigade was severely hit. This brigade had been in west Beirut until the summer of 1983.

IDF Commander on Released Ansar Detainees

TA081426 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 7 Dec 83 p 5

[Report by Elat Yehi'av]

[Text] The IDF is aware of the problems involving southern Lebanon following the release of the Ansar detainees; security forces are prepared for any clash or confrontation, even if not much can be done to anticipate such a confrontation. This was stated by the commander of the Northern Command, Major General Ori Or, to *BAMAHANE* one week after the release of the Ansar prisoners as part of the prisoner exchange agreement.

Maj Gen Or said that, in addition to security personnel who are already in the region, the IDF has the necessary manpower to confront the problem and is prepared for such an encounter.

"The IDF is trying to minimize the problem," Maj Gen Or explained, conceding that the problem does indeed exist and is one with which the IDF has no experience. This is the first time that such a large number of people have been released into an area controlled by the IDF, an area which was hostile even before the freed prisoners arrived.

Maj Gen Or was asked to comment on the position that hostile terrorist cells had not been able to expand and form proper terrorist organizations before this because they lacked suitable commanders, but now the commanding officers they need are available. He replied that there had been commanders available even before the Ansar prisoners were released, and that the terrorist cells had been organizing, albeit slowly. It can be assumed, he added, that some of those who have been released will be hostile, but any action on their part will result in a reaction by the IDF, which will make it clear that it is undesirable to be

hostile in an area under our supervision.

Maj Gen Or is hopeful that the Lebanese Government will want to expel from its territory all freed Ansar prisoners who do not hold Lebanese citizenship. He pointed out that in Lebanon it is possible to obtain any kind of certificate or diploma — even accreditation as a doctor of medicine — within 2 days. If the Lebanese Government and its official forces should require the IDF's assistance for this purpose, they will receive it. However, any expulsion will carry no real significance since those who have been expelled will move into areas such as northern Lebanon, for example, where neither the Lebanese Government nor its Army has any control.

Israel Prepared To Help Druze Expel 'Terrorists'

TA091053 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Dec 83 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Tali Zelinger]

[Text] Israel is prepared to help the Druze in the Ash-Shuf expel the terrorists still there, a senior defense source stated yesterday.

The source explained that although only a few terrorists were left in the area south of the Ad-Damur River, the region north of it, which still counts as part of the Ash-Shuf and is populated by local Druze, is crowded with terrorists belonging to various organizations. Israel wants the Druze to push them out, and is prepared to help them do this.

The air strikes were aimed at furthering this goal, and are an indication of the efficacy of this method. The strikes were also meant to let the Syrians know that they had terrorists in their midst in Lebanon, and that these terrorists were operating under Syria's protection. Unless the Syrians curb the attacks against the IDF in Lebanon, they will have to live with Israeli air operations as well as other operations carried out by Israeli forces in the regions controlled by Syria.

The senior defense source further stressed that Israel was aware of the fact that the perpetrators of the attacks in Lebanon and in Israel come from those parts of Lebanon that are under Syrian control.

Druze Arrive From Lebanon

TA090948 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0925 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] A delegation of Druze notables from the Ash-Shuf arrived in Israel about an hour ago. The visitors stated that the Phalangists who are stationed in Dayr al-Qamar are preventing the inhabitants from leaving the town. In a talk with the leader of the Druze in Israel, Shaykh 'Amin Tarif, the Druze visitors from Lebanon said that Junblatt's soldiers had lifted the siege from Dayr al-Qamar, but the Phalangists are preventing the inhabitants from leaving, so as to continue receiving the considerable funds flowing into the town from Christian communities abroad. Representatives of Christian organizations in Israel told our correspondent that, contrary to what the Druze leaders are saying, Junblatt's forces still have not completely lifted the siege from the town.

Sanctions Imposed on Refugee Camp Inhabitants

TA071037 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] Lately the civilian administration has been imposing civilian sanctions on inhabitants of the Ad-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem. In this context, requests submitted by residents for renewals of driving licenses and vehicle permits are being held up, and no driving tests are being held.

Visitors from Jordan or other Arab countries are not being allowed to go back, and are in danger of losing their jobs. Requests by residents of the camp to travel to Jordan are being turned down.

Defense sources have explained that these actions are being taken as part of a punitive policy against residents suspected of stone-throwing or other disturbances.

Arab Village Leagues' Election Effort Unsuccessful

TA071035 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Dec 83 p 2

[Report by Tzvi Bar'el]

[Text] The heads of the Arab Village Leagues in the West Bank were not successful in their attempt last night to hold elections, for the first time, for leadership of the Village Leagues Association.

A meeting was held by Village League leaders in the Association building in Ramallah, but the six leaders could not agree on an election system or on a system for managing the Association, and thus no consensus was achieved.

Some of the League heads suggested that each of the leaders serve a 3-month term as chairman of the Association, and once the period of rotation had ended the best man among them would be elected. Others demanded immediate elections.

In the end it was decided to postpone the elections and extend the term of Jawdat Sawalihah of Nabulus as acting chairman.

The Arab Village Leagues Association is supposed to be the political institution of the Village Leagues, to decide on their policy and activities. Since the resignation of the previous chairman, Mustafa Dudin, several months ago, the Association's activities have been at a standstill, and even during Dudin's time such activities were devoid of content.

The League leaders decided to postpone the meeting due to be held in 2 days' time until the end of December, in order to ensure greater attendance by West Bank residents.

The aim of this meeting will apparently be to declare the Village League Association's commitment regarding Jordan, "or to decide on a different line, in accordance with Jordanian reaction."

ALGERIA

Soviet Reportage on Visit by Marshal Ogarkov

For Soviet reportage on the visit to Algeria by the delegation led by Marshal of the Soviet Union Nikolay Ogarkov, USSR first deputy defense minister and chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, see the Middle East and North Africa section of the 7 December Soviet Union *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Calls for Lebanese 'People's Army'

LD081447 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1418 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Dec (JANA) — Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, commander of the Great 1 September Revolution, has called for the formation of a people's army to resist the invaders in Lebanon and to destroy the Zionist entity that has been implanted in the heart of the Arab homeland.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi made this remark while speaking to a group of secondary school students in Banghazi yesterday. He declared that it is our duty to create a people's resistance army in Lebanon composed of the Lebanese and Arab masses.

He noted that the purpose of this army would be to fight village by village and town by town until the occupation is destroyed, the invaders of Lebanon routed, and the usurping entity in occupied Palestine expelled.

We as Arabs are not oppressors, he said, and we do not want to cross the seas and go to Europe and the United States to fight. But as a nation that has been the victim of aggression and in whose land a foreign body has been implanted, we Arabs must destroy the enemy and liberate the Arab homeland.

He added that the world will wake up to this fact and realize our right to defend ourselves and to expel the usurping enemy that is continuously confronting us with war and aggression, destroying our capitals, and killing the sons of our nation.

MOROCCO

Hassan II Receives Letter From Al-Asad

JN081231 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] The Moroccan king, Hassan II, received a letter from President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday dealing with the latest developments in the Middle East and the act of aggression launched by the U.S. Air Force against Syrian positions. According to KUNA, Ahmad 'Isa, Syria's ambassador to Morocco, presented the letter to the Moroccan king.

Socialist Union Leader on Political Participation

LD081427 Rabat MAP in English 1157 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Rabat, Dec 7 (MAP) — The participation of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (Socialist opposition) in the new Moroccan Government is fundamentally motivated by "our strong and permanent willingness to contribute in the defense of the national entity" and by our concern to endeavor for the strengthening of the credibility of the democratic process at present and in the future, affirmed on Tuesday Mr Abderrahim Bouabid, first secretary of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP).

In an interview with the party's mouthpiece *"AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI"*, Mr Bouabid specified that the USFP does not intend to participate directly in the affairs' management as this (participation) would require time and a new breath.

However, he said, the USFP is ready to give its viewpoint, if asked, on the basis of the options made by the party's congresses and official organs at the national or local levels.

About the discussion of the draft financial bill for 1984, Mr Bouabid said it can only be "a mere discussion" for such a text cannot be legal prior to the upcoming legislative elections.

Regarding the issue of territorial integrity, the USFP first secretary said he did not rule out the possibility to see Morocco's foes intensify their maneuvers "on the diplomatic level and maybe on the military level as well." To face these maneuvers, Mr Bouabid said, Morocco possesses a decisive weapon: "The Moroccan people's unanimity on the preservation of its entity and its existence as a people and as a state." In this respect, Mr Bouabid underlined the correlation existing between the recovery of the internal situation and the defense of territorial integrity.

According to Mr Bouabid, the Organization of African Unity is now unable to organize a sincere and democratic referendum in the Saharan provinces. The OAU, he explained, began to make of direct negotiations between Moroccan and a group of separatists the starting point for a settlement of the Sahara issue.

This behavior is the result of the fears felt by Morocco's foes as to the outcome of a honest referendum, Mr Bouabid said. The USFP first secretary finally expressed hope that the Algerians would realize the gravity of the situation in the Arab Maghreb and their responsibility vis-a-vis the future.

TUNISIA

Mzali Receives Soviet Message for Bourguiba

LD081807 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali received Soviet Ambassador to Tunisia Vselovod Kizichenko this morning. Kizichenko

delivered a message for President Habib Bourguiba from the Soviet leadership.

The Soviet ambassador told TAP that the message conveys the Soviet leaders' concern at the day-to-day deterioration of conditions in various parts of the world, particularly Latin America, Europe, and Lebanon.

BURUNDI

Minister Presents 1984 Budget to Parliament

EA081801 Bujumbura Domestic Service in French 0420 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The day before yesterday the finance minister presented to MP's the 1984 ordinary budget and briefed them at length on the economic and financial situation of Burundi. The 1984 budget is characterized by rigor and austerity. Public expenditure must be cut so that the budget deficit can be controlled. As a result, export permits on coffee, canceled in 1981, will be restored, a measure that will realize 1.5-2 billion Burundi francs.

In addition the authorities in charge of revenue and administration will be extended. But expenditure on personnel will be curbed. The only foreseen increase is the release of the payment of annual increments to civil servants as promised by the president of the republic during the first congress of the Burundi Union of Workers. The hiring of qualified personnel will be authorized only for the Ministries of Finance, Public Health, and National Education. As for other ministries, a loan of 20 million francs, administered by the Ministry of the Civil Service, will enable the hiring of personnel deemed absolutely essential. The number of personnel on contracts will be reduced.

Loans for the public services will remain at the same level as those voted for last year. The only authorized increase is in respect of the purchase of medicine and hospital equipment. Each ministerial department will administer loans allocated for telecommunications, water supplies, and electricity bills. Loans for trips inside the country and abroad as well as Burundi's contributions to international and regional organizations will be reduced until an improvement in the position of our exchange reserves is forthcoming. Existing loans to self-governing public authorities will also be reduced. Grants to communes will be stopped as from 1984.

Our main concern at present are those debts that have not been paid over the past years. This amount is estimated at 2,570 billion [francs]. The finance minister stressed on Tuesday [6 December] to the National Assembly that these payments are urgent in order to avoid disturbances in the parastatal and private sectors. [Passage indistinct]

CHAD

Official Discusses Upcoming Addis Ababa Meeting

AB081355 Paris AFP in French 0723 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Paris, 8 Dec (AFP) — Bisso Mamadou, secretary general of the National Consultative Council of Chad, the provisional parliament, reasserted in Paris on Wednesday that the Chadian Government intends to participate in the Addis Ababa meeting for national reconciliation in Chad on 21 December as the "legal and legitimate government."

"We would like all opponents of President Hissein Habre to attend, but they cannot present themselves as factions because that would be tantamount to a negation of national reconciliation," Mr Bisso said. Mr Bisso is leading a delegation of the National Consultative Council, created on 21 October 1982, on a visit to France at the invitation of the National Assembly's "French-Chadian friendship group."

Mr Bisso also recalled that Ndjamena had proposed a postponement of the date of the Addis Ababa meeting "to give more chances for the success of this conference."

GABON

President Bongo Hosts Luncheon for Belgian Prince

AB082031 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Prince Albert of Belgium, who arrived in Libreville 2 days ago within the framework of Gabon-Belgium cooperation, is continuing his visit. He was received yesterday at the Renovation Palace by President El-Hadj Omar Bongo. The president of the republic hosted a luncheon in honor of his royal highness. On this occasion two addresses were made, the first by President Bongo and the second by Prince Albert. The head of state stressed the need to strengthen our bilateral relations on the basis of friendship and cooperation, notably in the sphere of technical assistance. Let us listen to the president of the republic:

[Begin Bongo recording] The talks which we have just held have afforded us yet another occasion to uphold our cooperation. As I have always said concerning cooperation, Gabon is a rich country, but a rich country which has never gotten — or better, has no — means to tap its economic resources. I want to repeat that we are free. We are free in the sense that we want to entertain friendship with all countries. Gabon has a liberal policy. So the businessmen who come to Gabon should not fear that tomorrow the Gabonese Government may nationalize the businesses they have set up in our country. In a nutshell, we want to tell you that we do not want you to lose money. We do not want to lose money either. This is Gabon, Your Royal Highness, visit it, see for yourself what we are doing in our country.

When I visited your country, the Belgian Government made every effort in 3 days to grant us a state-to-state loan which we have put at the disposal of the Trans-Gabonese Railroad. But now that you are in Gabon, we would like you to make a further move. Because, as I have always stated, the more you give me, the more I ask for. Very often we are told that Gabon is the preserve of such and such countries. But we laugh at this. I think that the few Belgian enterprises can testify that Gabon is really a free and sovereign country. There are no problems between Gabon and Belgium. The only thing I will ask you is to assist us in the economic, scientific, and cultural fields. We will maintain good political relations with you so that your investments in our country will yield the expected fruit.

In conclusion, I would like you — Your Royal Highness, comrades, and friends — to raise your glasses in honor of the friendship between Gabon and Belgium, especially to the health

of my friend King Baudouin. Long live Belgium and long live Gabon. [end recording]

For his part, the Belgian Prince made a point of explaining the various objectives which he feels his visit to Gabon should aim at. Let us listen to Prince Albert:

[Begin Albert recording] Your Excellency, I want to tell you how much I am touched by your invitation to visit your beautiful country, an invitation which is both official and personal. This visit affords me an opportunity to meet you once again, Mr President. As I already told you during the long talks you kindly held with me, the mission which I have the privilege to head has several objectives. First of all, we would like to see by ourselves the progress achieved on the remarkable project which Gabon owes to your personal philosophy and your determination, Mr President, I mean the Trans-Gabonese Railroad. We will also lay the foundation stone of a railcar depot which a group of highly qualified Belgian enterprises will build. During our stay in your beautiful country, we would also like to hold working sessions with distinguished members of the Gabonese Government in order to discuss development projects entrusted to Belgian enterprises or likely to be entrusted to them. The detailed talks which we are having this week and the administrative, fiscal, and financial results which I hope will be attained will create a favorable climate for increased cooperation in the industrial and technological sectors. No doubt these talks will prompt an increase in our exchanges, which we are calling for wholeheartedly. Mr President, I hope that thanks to this renewed dialogue, we will be able to build [words indistinct].

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, with this hope for a bright future, I would like you to raise your glasses and drink to the health of his excellency, the president of the Republic of Gabon, the well-being of the Gabonese people, and the strengthening of economic relations between our two countries. [end recording]

Envoy Delivers Mitterrand Message to Bongo

AB082000 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 0630 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Guy Penne left Libreville yesterday after a few hours' stay in the Gabonese Capital. During his short stay in the Gabonese capital, Guy Penne delivered a message from French President Francois Mitterrand to Gabonese President Omar Bongo. Before leaving Libreville for Angola and Togo, Guy Penne underlined the excellent relations between Gabon and France in an interview he granted to the Gabonese press. He also talked about the problem of Gabonese opposition in France.

[Begin Penne recording] As you know, the right to asylum is an old French tradition, and when the Socialists came to power in France they could not question this sacred right. What we usually do is to ask all those living in France not to abuse this right; that is, they should use this right responsibly and not to engage in destabilization activities. I must also say that one must distinguish between those who shock Gabonese public opinion and [words indistinct]. They are not necessarily Gabonese nationals; they may be French or other nationals. But there are in fact some Gabonese nationals who create (?some problems). As you know, France and Gabon are very close to each other. [Passage indistinct] [end recording]

President Bongo Receives PRC Trade Mission

AB082215 Libreville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpts] His Excellency El-Hadj Omar Bongo, the president of the republic, received in turns the ambassador of the United States to Gabon and a Chinese ministerial delegation led by Mr Lu Xuzhang, deputy minister in charge of foreign economic relations and trade [title as heard]. The Chinese deputy minister said: I came to participate in the deliberations of the first session of the Chinese-Gabonese joint commission for cooperation. I was just received in audience by the president of the republic, a fact which testifies to President Omar Bongo's care for us. We took the opportunity to brief him on the smooth running of the deliberations, declared Mr Lu Xuzhang. Questioned on the future of the economic and commercial relations between Libreville and Beijing after the holding of this first session of the joint commission, Mr Lu Xuzhang first of all recalled that China and Gabon are bound by a very sincere friendship and that economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries is good. During the Libreville deliberations, he said, we reviewed progress so far made and also means of finding new ways for the future development of this cooperation. The two sides have already expressed this desire to further develop economic and commercial cooperation, concluded the Chinese deputy minister.

ZAIRE

New Turkish Ambassador Arrives in Kinshasa

AB090856 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1710 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 8 Dec (AZAP) — Salih Diler, the new Turkish ambassador to Zaire, arrived in Kinshasa from Ankara, Turkey, over the weekend, it was announced by the Turkish Embassy on Wednesday.

Salih Diler will assume his functions in Kinshasa at a time when the relations of friendship existing between Zaire and Turkey are being strengthened and after cooperation was enchanced last June when three agreements in the scientific, technical, and cultural fields as well as a general cooperation agreement were signed.

Salih Diler is taking over from Tahir Senturk, who left Zaire last November following a mandate which lasted over 3 years.

GUINEA

Sekou Toure on France, Domestic Situation

AB081430 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Interview granted by President Sekou Toure to a team of journalists from Africa No 1 and a journalist from the Canadian Press Union in Dalaba on 4 December — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Philippe Thierno of Africa No 1] In the eyes of many Africans and some other people as well, the history of this country will always be marked by the historic "no" uttered by Guinea on 28 September 1958, the date of the country's independence. Mr President, much has been said and written about this, but many Africans are still not familiar with Guinea's version of the event. On behalf of all its listeners, Africa No 1 requests you to please explain again the reasons that motivated this decision as well as the circumstances in which this event took place. We would also like to know how the Guinean people endured the great difficulties which followed this decision. This is our first question.

[Toure] You are referring to the referendum organized on 28 September 1958 by the French Government under the leadership of General Charles de Gaulle. There were 13 French colonies at that time. They had been invited to take part in this referendum in order to decide whether to belong to a French-African community or to become independent states. Each colony therefore had a choice to make. We in Guinea first asked ourselves a question: Are there any people in the world who would renounce their independence and freedom? We answered no. Ninety-six percent of our electorate categorically rejected Guinea's membership in the proposed French-African community, which had been presented as a path to sovereignty and independence. We did not want African history to record the painful fact that a generous France once offered freedom to its former colonies and that they unanimously rejected it.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr President, you were accused of being anti-French. What can you say about this?

[Toure] We were not anti-French; we were pro-African. We were Africans and those Frenchmen who are pro-France cannot be considered anti-African. The French have responsibilities toward their fatherland. This is also the case with Africans. We have no need to oppose anything as far as the future of our continent and country is concerned. Let me repeat that we were never anti-French, we are not anti-French, nor will we ever be anti-French. But we were anti-imperialist, we remain anti-imperialist, and we shall always be anti-imperialist.

[Reporter] How did Guinea endure the consequences of its decision in favor of independence?

[Toure] French imperialism and colonialism did its utmost to demonstrate that Guinea's choice was wrong. This was the cause of all the plots against the young state. Everything was done — including the staging of press campaigns — to deceive world opinion in order to isolate Guinea and portray it as something deserving no respect. When one wants to destroy a regime, one attacks the person who embodies it. There had been a lot of talk about Mr Ahmed Sekou Toure; people would have talked about you if you were the Guinean head of state at that time.

Each day, a lot of nonsense was said about Guinea. Lies became the official language. It was said that in Guinea, Mr Sekou Toure was guarded by Chinese or Cuban soldiers, that he ordered massacres to be carried out on a daily basis, and that his brothers and sisters were the victims. It was said that he was continuously hanging people. The Sekou Toure of whom all this was said is a believer. He would not kill a fly for anything. What you heard about Guinea were nothing but lies. No one has ever been arbitrarily arrested in Guinea. Those who had been tried and sentenced to death were traitors, and France set the example. You know quite well that at the end of the last world war, more than 100,000 [as heard] French nationals were executed by the French people.

[Reporter] I know that your relations with France have improved somewhat. How do you think these relations will develop? In other words, what do you expect from France?

[Toure] To the French people we have always affirmed our confidence, friendship, and desire for sincere and lasting cooperative relations. We do not want the French colonialism we experienced. We have therefore chosen the French people but not French colonialism. Until 1970, it was French colonialism that wanted to conduct business with us. It has now realized that the Guinean people will never accept it: We will accept neither direct nor indirect colonization.

[Reporter] Before talking about a North-South dialogue, one can speak of a South-South dialogue. I have been led to understand that during the recent 12th Congress of the Guinean Democratic Party, you appealed for the creation of joint African enterprises. Do you see this appeal as the launching of something that could be considered an example of the South-South dialogue?

[Toure] All relations, be they North-South or South-South, must be considered in terms of means. These relations must be sustained by a political will, and this political will depends on the people's level of awareness and their governments' level of determination. I believe that if Europe could understand its true historic interest, it would draw nearer to Africa with an open spirit and would demonstrate a greater readiness to study ways and means of achieving an interdependent development that would guarantee lasting relations between Africa and Europe. The old order based on colonialism has been banished by all peoples, despite the fact that the present structures emerged from the colonial past. This is why the new order must be understood as a need that will enable each people to develop in freedom, dignity, and solidarity with others. As far as (?trade) is concerned, Europe needs Africa as much as Africa needs Europe. This is why Africa must now take the first step: It must define the bases upon which fruitful cooperation may be established and launch the struggle to propagate its ideas of justice in order to gradually make Europe aware of the situation and demonstrate a political will.

[Reporter] How do you think the problems of Western Sahara and Chad can be solved?

[Toure] I am convinced that Africa is capable of solving the Saharan and Chadian problems. In the first place, the OAU's decisions have not been respected. In the case of Western Sahara, it called for the organization of a referendum on self-determination. During such a plebescite, the Saharans would be free to determine their own destiny. The United Nations has just decided that this referendum should be organized during this month of December. International opinion has therefore agreed to give priority to the proposed referendum. It is now up to the Saharans to say what they want. There is no longer any need for Africa to look for a solution because everything now depends solely on the will of the Saharans.

Concerning Chad, the OAU has announced its decision. The organization's Bureau met recently and called upon other states to respect the territorial integrity, national unity, and sovereignty of Chad. These three conditions are funamental, and have the unanimous support of OAU members. These same conditions were vigorously reaffirmed in Vittel [during the French-African summit conference].

[Reporter] Troops loyal to Goukouni Oueddei and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi now occupy the northern part of the country, while the southern part is under the control of Hissein Habre, who is receiving assistance from France and a number of Western countries. This is a truly dramatic phenomenon — the partitioning of Chad. Is there anything the OAU can do to ensure that the various factions in Chad overcome their difficulties?

[Toure] The OAU made an appeal through the resolution adopted by its Bureau. An appeal for national reconciliation has been made to the Chadians and I am sure that it will be heard and that positive results will follow. The war has lasted 17 years; there has been enough destruction.

[Reporter] There are now many Guineans living abroad. They left their county for various reasons. Some of them would like to return while others have formed opposition groups. What do you think of them? Are you going to tell them to return home to cooperate with you, or will things remain as they are? I have been led to understand that you have called upon the opposition to return home and join in the task of national development. Has the time for pardon now come? What guarantees can you give them?

[Toure] You just witnessed the dialogue I held with my people in Pita, and you also heard the address I made a moment ago to the people of Dalaba. They all concerned the problem of counterrevolution and the problem of giving priority to the individual and his interests over the people and their interests. I said that some Guineans — influenced by colonialism — had betrayed their fatherland. Some young intellectuals who considered themselves superior to all the other people in Guinc — just as Satan considered himself superior to Adam — had betrayed their country and had condemned themselves to a life of fear. You are a Muslim and you are a Catholic and you understand me perfectly. These young people, who benefitted from the education given them by their people and who won bachelor or doctorate degrees, preferred to remain in France following their country's independence. They minimized the capacity of their compatriots (?who fought for) independence and formed the government. They called the government a government of incompetent and illiterate people. They considered themselves superior.

They acquired a press in order to insult us as much as they like. Take the case of Algeria for example. Algeria acted in a worthy manner. During the struggle for national independence, the Algerians living in France demonstrated the harmony which existed between themselves and their compatriots at home. No Algerian wrote articles or distributed tracts insulting his people. But there were Guineans who dragged their people through the mud and flouted their dignity. They did not harm me or the Guinean people; they harmed only themselves. Anyone who betrays his own people can betray any other people. This is a fact. As I just told the meeting, all that now remains for them to do is draw the lessons of their vanity, reconvert themselves to the morals of their people, reintegrate into their society, and contribute to Guinea's development.

I have no enemies; I have no enemies at all, not even those who dragged me through the mud. Whoever comes here with the will to participate in the construction of the nation will become my brother and companion on the journey. My real enemy is the man who — whether he is of the same father and mother as I — praises me all the time but opposes the Guinean people. Thus, there are no contradictions between them and me; if they want to return home, the contradiction is between them and their people [as heard]. I have no grudge against any of them. I only pity them because they (?fled) their country. It is a dramatic situation. If I had the means, I would immediately give them the spirit and courage to return and present themselves to Guinea in order to participate in the building of the nation.

[Reporter] Mr President, what message would you now like to pass on to the peoples of Africa through Africa No 1?

[Toure] [Passage indistinct] Africa has suffered too much. It has suffered both humiliation and the historic eclipse represented by the era of foreign domination. Its development has been delayed; the values of its civilization have been trampled upon [words indistinct]. Africa must preserve these values. It must free itself from the after-effects of the domination which depersonalized it. It must give its determination the vigor and rigor necessary for the affirmation of its identity and the delivery of its message.

In Africa, it is the states which must create the nations whereas in Europe, it was the nations which created the states. That is the difference. If we want to turn the former colonial territories into genuine nations — modern, homogeneous, harmonious, and beautiful nations — we must destroy tribalism and all reactionary forces. We must also remove every contradiction. Who can do this if not a national, democratic, and popular political party and a people organized on a rational basis and who face all their problems, discuss them, and adopt just solutions in the interest of all? In Africa, the political parties do not have the same role as those in Europe. Those who recommend setting up a number of political parties are deceiving us. If Africans are conscious, they will prefer a national party, provided there is equality among its members, provided they jointly discuss all problems which concern the nation, and provided they choose appropriate solutions in a democratic manner. That is our position.

IVORY COAST

Houphouet-Boigny Gives National Day Speech

AB081148 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 8 Dec 83 p 16, 17

[Address to the nation by President Felix Houphouet-Boigny on 6 December in Abidjan, on the occasion of the 23d anniversary of Ivory Coast]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Amid the crisis which prevails in the world, causing worries to the great nations and asphyxiating the poorest people, there are few occasions for rejoicing.

Though the Ivory Coast is burdened with the consequences of the crisis, I must, however, tell you that on this 23d anniversary I have much cause for satisfaction. This satisfaction has been provided by you personally and your behavior during this year, 1983, which was difficult for everyone and even harder for those who have but scanty resources.

In the first place — thanks to you — I was able to make a long, several-month trip abroad. My journey was motivated, as you know, by the need to foster our friendly relations, promote a better understanding — as Africans as well as Ivorians — of our concerns and desires, and conduct a loyal exchange of views with my partners in the political and economic spheres.

You have thus proven the stability of our institutions, the maturity of your national feeling, and your rejection of sterile agitation. This caused astonishment and even admiration among observers who, one must say, are not used to such wisdom in Africa or elsewhere.

Then, when I returned home, we all addressed ourselves to the study of the situation in order to find appropriate measures that would allow us to pass through a dangerous and trying period without too much damage. In this case too, the free and frank dialogue proved to me that progress has been made.

Apart from a few exceptions, and yet without concealing your difficulties, you all raised the level of the discussion above sectarian demands, calling for rigor though you know full well that it would affect everyone, and proposing long-term solutions to the problems of the whole country.

This enabled me to take the necessary measures — in the interest of the country and in accord with your wishes — for the revival of the situation, a situation dominated by the world crisis which partially brought it about, but which has also resulted from mistakes and harmful practices which, in any case, would have been necessarily corrected, even in a time of full economic growth.

Housing, security, national education, public health, transportation, self-sufficiency in food production: these are the issues we amply discussed during the National Council meeting. I will not repeat what was said concerning the grievances, suggestions, or decisions made. The press, together with radio and television, gave wide coverage to these points.

I would only like to tell you my fears as to what the upcoming year has in store for us. I do this so that we might together prepare ourselves to face the situation.

As a matter of fact, the admirable behavior which you displayed must not make us lose sight of the grave difficulties lying ahead in 1984. The poor rainy season will make us lose hundreds of thousands of tons of crops. The revenues from customs duties will be affected by this situation. We will be building new and costly electric power stations due to the diminishing quantity of water in our hydroelectric dams. We will indeed make great efforts to reduce state expenditures.

But we will continue to feel the disastrous consequences of the world crisis in all spheres, including the economic, financial, monetary, energy, and political sectors.

Unfortunately, the peace which we have wholeheartedly been calling for in the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Africa is not for 1984. The champions of peace must henceforth redouble their efforts and vigilance. Yes, a difficult new year is ahead; we must not hide this.

So let us close ranks, let us think of all those who are not lucky enough to live in a peaceful country, of all those who live in terror each day, under bombing, in hunger and misery, of those who have been thrown out of their hometowns and villages and for whom the end of martyrdom is not in sight. Let us deserve the happiness of the peaceful life and prosperity which — though surely real — has been temporarily reduced. Let us avoid mean rivalries and vile wrangling, which show only the mediocrity of those behind such rivalries and wrangling. A good deal of time is wasted at all levels in settling these wretched quarrels.

Each one of us must feel responsible for part of our future, which is too valuable to jeopardize.

You have entrusted me with the exciting and difficult task of being your leader. I will continue to do my utmost in order not to be a disappointment to you.

You are also aware that the role I played in the early phase of building Africa and the trust of my peers give me additional mandatory duties — those of advice and mediation. It would be foolish of me to think that I could assume these crushing duties alone. Help me through your unity, your work, and your internal harmony. These will ensure that the Ivory Coast becomes stronger while passing through these trying times, which give it maturity and help it to surpass itself.

The most beautiful battles, the only ones which are worth fighting, are those which build rather than destroy. Let us learn how to win them so that, as winners, we will proudly fly our national colors high in the serene and bright sky of tomorrow's prosperous and brotherly Ivory Coast. Long live the Ivory Coast.

LIBERIA

Doe Appoints Deputy Defense Minister

AB081950 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Head of State Commander in Chief Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe has made two new appointments within the Defense Ministry with the advice and consent of the People's Redemption Council. Assistant defense minister for civil works, Colonel Jackson Tay, now becomes deputy minister for operations, effective immediately. He replaces Captain Charles Harris, who cannot continue to serve in the position because of ill health.

Also appointed today was Colonel Steven Blahie, who succeeds Colonel Tay as assistant minister for operations.

NIGER

Kountche Returns From Egypt, Saudi Arabia

AB090900 Paris AFP in French 1537 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Niamey, 8 Dec (AFP) — Niger Head of State General Seyni Kountche returned to Niamey Thursday afternoon from a trip which took him to Egypt, where he paid a 4-day official visit, and to Saudi Arabia.

While in Saudi Arabia, President Kountche met King Fahd before undertaking the lesser pilgrimage.

The head of state, who left his country on Saturday, was accompanied by his wife; Major Toumba Boubacar, the deputy chief of staff of the national Armed Forces; the minister of information, Dauda Diallo; the minister of justice, Allele Habibou; and the minister of mines and industry, Sani Koutoubi.

NIGERIA

Shagari Announces Foreign Policy 'Reviewed'

AB091254 Lagos NAN in English 1205 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] Lagos, Dec 9 (NAN) — Nigeria's foreign policy has been reviewed to pay particular attention to events happening in its neighboring countries, President Shehu Shagari said in Lagos yesterday.

Speaking at the patrons dinner of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs [NIIA], President Shagari said that the review was necessary in the light of changing circumstances in the international scene. He said that although his administration remained committed to the concept of Africa as the centre-piece of Nigeria's foreign policy, the heightened threat to global peace "has made more poignant the demands for national security."

President Shagari said that instability in any neighboring country would inevitably have spill-over effects "on our own political stability and economic well-being."

In Chad for instance, he said that Nigeria experienced added social and economic strains as a result of the influx of more than 10,000 refugees because of the civil war there. He also said that the possibility of foreign intervention which tended to escalate such conflicts "so near our borders poses some threats to our national security."

President Shagari said that the situation of instability created by the involvement of foreign forces in Chad was unacceptable and that the foreign forces should be withdrawn to make way for a political solution to the conflict.

On Namibia, President Shagari said that it was presented erroneously that Nigeria had advocated a replacement of Cuban troops in Angola by African troops. He said that Nigeria still rejected the linkage of Namibian independence with the presence of Cuban troops in Angola but stood by the proposition for an African defence force to assist OAU countries whose security might be threatened.

President Shagari said that the 1981 meeting of frontline states in Lagos regretted the inability of the OAU to concretize the long-standing idea of an (?intra-African) force. The absence of that force, he said, necessitated the invitation by Angola of an extra-African force.

He added that the withdrawal of France from the five-nation Western Contact Group on Namibia is a useful reminder of the exasperation widely felt about the ineffectiveness of the group.

President Shagari called on the NIIA to continue to enlighten the public on foreign affairs through symposia and published research. He also urged the institute to put at the disposal of government useful and well researched information that would provide a sure basis for a sound foreign policy.

The president said that the institute would remain an independent research centre on foreign affairs, although it had been returned to the Ministry of External Affairs for the purpose of ministerial affiliation.

Police Explain Ban on Public Meeting in Plateau

AB082030 Lagos NAN in English 1642 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Jos, Dec. 8 (NAN) — The police in Plateau said on Tuesday that its two-week ban on public meetings and processions in the state was aimed at preventing political parties from holding rallies during Mr. Yakubu Gowon's visit and causing a breach of the peace.

Speaking to the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Jos the deputy police public relations officer in the state, Mr Peter Onwubuya, said individuals who wished to welcome the former head of state were free to do so.

The police last Monday imposed a two-week ban on all public meetings and processions in Plateau.

Meanwhile, the state government has drawn up a programme to welcome Mr. Gowon when he arrives in the state on Friday.

UPPER VOLTA

Sankara Sends Message to Houphouet-Boigny

AB081058 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] On the occasion of the Ivory Coast's national day, the head of state, Comrade Thomas Sankara, has sent the following message to His Excellency Felix Houphouet-Boigny, president of the Republic of Ivory Coast:

On the happy occasion of your country's national day, I am particularly pleased to address to you — on behalf of the revolutionary people of Upper Volta, their National Council of the Revolution [CNR], their government, and on my own behalf — my very warm congratulations. I take this happy opportunity to assure you of our total readiness to make additional efforts each day for the strengthening of the age-old bonds between the Upper Voltan and Ivorian peoples.

While renewing my ardent and sincere wishes for the continuation of your health and personal well-being due to your heavy responsibility, and for the continued progress of the friendly and brotherly people of the Ivory Coast, I pray you to accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of my highest regards.

[Signed] Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the CNR and head of state of Upper Volta.

Decree Issued on Jurisdiction of Missions Abroad

AB081123 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] A decree on the definition of the jurisdiction of Upper Volta's diplomatic and consular missions abroad was signed yesterday. Here is the text of the decree:

The chairman of the National Council of the Revolution and head of state decrees:

Article 1: The jurisdiction of Upper Volta's diplomatic and consular missions abroad are as follows:

Article 2: The embassy in Abidjan has competence over the Republic of Ivory Coast and the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of Liberia, the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Niger, the Republic of Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Republic of Mauritania, and the Republic of Gambia.

Article 3: The embassy in Accra has competence over Ghana and the Republic of Togo.

Article 4: The embassy in Bonn has competence over the FRG, the Federal Republic of Austria, the Swiss Confederation, and the UN industrial development organization.

Article 5: The embassy in Brussels has competence over the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the European Community;

Article 6: The embassy in Cairo has competence over the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Sudan, and Turkey.

Article 7: The embassy in Copenhagen has competence over the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of Finland, the Kingdom of Norway, and the Kingdom of Sweden.

Article 8: The embassy in Riyadh has competence over the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Federation of the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Oman, and the State of Qatar.

Article 9: The embassy in Lagos has competence over the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the People's Republic of Benin, the Republic of Gabon, and the Republic of Rwanda.

Article 10: The embassy in Moscow has competence over the USSR, the GDR, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the People's Republic of Hungary, the People's Republic of Poland, and the Democratic Republic of Czechoslovakia.

Article 11: The embassy in Ottawa has competence over the Federation of Canada.

Article 12: The embassy in Paris has competence over the Republic of France and the Kingdom of Spain, the Republic of Portugal, the Holy See, the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, UNESCO, and the Sovereign Order of Malta.

Article 13: The embassy in Algiers has competence over the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and the Kingdom of Morocco.

Article 14: The embassy in Rome has competence over the Republic of Italy, the Socialist and Federative Republic of Yugoslavia, Greece, the FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Article 15: The embassy in Tripoli has competence over the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Tunisia.

Article 16: The embassy in Beijing has competence over the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Bangladesh, the DPRK, the Republic of India, Japan, the Republic of Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Article 17: The embassy in Washington has competence over the United States of America, the Republic of Argentina, the Federation of Brazil, the Republic of Mexico, the Republic of Venezuela, and the Republic of Korea.

Article 18: The permanent legation in New York has competence over the United Nations Organization and the Republic of Cuba.

Article 19: The present decree — which abrogates any pre-

vious decree to the contrary, particularly Decree No 810226-CMSN-AUTC of 7 May 1981 — will be published in the *OFFICIAL GAZETTE of the republic.*

ANGOLA

Bulgarian Delegation Visits Bengo, Begins Talks

MB081013 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] The Bulgarian Communist Party delegation which arrived the day before yesterday will this morning visit the Luanda commercial harbor, where it will meet with party committee members. Yesterday afternoon the delegation visited Bengo Province and was received by Comrade (Lopes Maria Chimoto), provincial commissar, and toured the Mabubas Dam and the hydroelectric power station. Later the Bulgarian delegation, led by Atanas Konstantinov, deputy chief of the Bulgarian Communist Party's Organization Department, met with the Bengo Provincial Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party under the chairmanship of Comrade (Lopes Maria Chimoto), its coordinator. Official talks between the Bulgarian delegation and the MPLA-Labor Party delegation led by Comrade Afonso van Dunem Mbinda, Central Committee secretary for external relations, began yesterday morning.

Signs Cooperation Agreement

MB090820 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] An interparty cooperation agreement was signed in Luanda yesterday between a delegation of the Bulgarian Communist Party on visit to our country since last Tuesday and a delegation of the MPLA-Labor Party. Comrade Afonso van Dunem Mbinda, Central Committee secretary for external relations, signed on the Angolan side while Atanas Konstantinov, the head of the delegation and a candidate member of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, signed for Bulgaria. Also yesterday Atanas Konstantinov gave a lecture at the Party National School on the experience of the Bulgarian Communist Party in party building and in the building of a socialist fatherland. The Bulgarian delegation also visited the Luanda commercial harbor yesterday to view operations in its main sectors.

Frontline Information Cooperation Meeting Opens

MB081514 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] The directors of frontline state news agencies have been meeting in Luanda. The meeting, which is to end 12 December, will discuss the resolutions approved at the meetings in Kadoma, Zimbabwe, and Maputo, Mozambique, at which methods of cooperation among the frontline countries in the field of information were outlined. Yesterday during the opening session Comrade (Paulino Pinto Joao), director of the information and propaganda department of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee, said that information must not be regarded solely as a means of communication, but also as a form of propaganda for the mobilization of the people in the struggle against imperialism. He also noted that just as in the political and diplomatic fields, where our fight has always been victorious, in the economic and social fields and within the framework of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference we have already earned a number of victories on the new front that has been opened and where we will announce new resounding victories.

MPLA Official Speaks at Anniversary Celebration

MB081612 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The main celebration of the 10 December 27th anniversary of the formation of the MPLA and the 6th anniversary of its transformation into a labor party, was held in Luanda yesterday. The speaker was Comrade Afonso van Dunem Mbinda, party Central Committee secretary for external relations, who pointed out the historic significance of the date, particularly in view of the imperialist acts of aggression the country is facing. The reasons for the creation of the MPLA in 1956 and its subsequent transformation into a labor party were also recalled by Comrade Mbinda, who stressed the party's progressive nature. The role played by the MPLA movement and subsequently by the Labor Party during the first and second struggles of liberation was also mentioned by the secretary of the party Central Committee. He concluded by referring to several constructive tasks that have contributed to the growth and strengthening of the MPLA-Labor Party:

[Begin Mbinda recording] In order to establish the role of the party as the guiding force of the people and society, significant organizational steps have been taken. The opening of the campaign for the election of new party members and the transition of cadets to members of the party youth, as outlined by Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, has been one of the fundamental tasks in the growth of our party. It followed the assessment of the campaign to ratify members of the MPLA movement. The approval of these communiques, which contain important guidelines for all party members, has been prompted by the objective need for all of us to increase the party ranks with new members, who will bring a new force and greater dynamism to the party, so that we can successfully face the growing tasks of defense, national reconstruction, and the building of material and spiritual bases for the socialist society we want to build.

Throughout this struggle, the MPLA-Labor Party, the leading force of the Angolan nation and the Angolan people as a whole, has been forced to make enormous sacrifices for the defense of the democratic and popular revolution. The acts of armed aggression by the racist South African regime against the Angolan people since 1975 expanded considerably in 1981 after the deterioration of the international situation — prompted by increased activities in the ultrareactionary circles of American imperialism, which decided to give its direct support to reactionary, fascist, and unpopular regimes and counterrevolutionary organizations all over the world. It was in this difficult context that the 9th and 10th sessions of our party's Central Committee were held. After an in-depth analysis of the country's political, economic, social and military situation, important measures were adopted. Among these are the annihilation of the armed puppet groups and, as the main task, the general emergency plan and the adoption of an emergency plan of action outside the national plan in order to face the deterioration of the country's situation,

namely, in the economic, financial, and military field through rational retention and mobilization of the existing resources and capacities.

Imperialism has not laid down its arms, because it continues to oppose the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country. Thus it is equipping and arming reactionaries and puppets, and increasingly (?launching) the Carcamanos [South Africans] against us. At the political and diplomatic level in the international arena it seeks to misrepresent our revolutionary process through demagogy and lies. This coordinated action by imperialism, which is designed to prevent Angola's multifaceted development, forces us once again to mobilize ourselves for defense. In this context, regional military councils and popular vigilante brigades have been formed. Together with the formation and expansion of the people's defense organization municipality battalions they will decisively contribute to the destruction of the enemy maneuvers so that we can pursue our heroic and victorious march toward the strategic objective we have chosen for ourselves, that is, scientific socialism. [end recording]

In addition to Comrade Afonso van Dunem Mbinda, party Central Committee secretary for external relations, and Comrade (Bernardo de Sousa), party Central Committee member, the 10 December ceremony was also attended by members of the MPLA-Labor Party, party youth, and mass organizations.

LESOTHO

DPRK Ambassador Presents Credentials to King

MB081328 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] His Majesty King Moshoeshoe II this morning received letters of credence from the ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, His Excellency Mr An Kyong-hyon at the Royal Palace in Maseru. In his speech, his majesty said that he was confident that the opening of the Korean Embassy in Lesotho will contribute significantly to the further development of pacts of friendship that link the two countries together. His majesty said that bonds of friendship between Lesotho and Korea were further augmented by the exchange of visits between peoples of the two countries and also the growing number of people from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea who live and work in Lesotho. He said that this was evidence of the strengthening of bilateral relationships between Lesotho and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In presenting his letters of credence, the ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Lesotho, His Excellency Mr An Kyong-hyon said that friendly and cooperative relations between the people of Korea and Lesotho developed rapidly since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1980. He said that relations between the two countries were further strengthened by the visit to Korea of the prime minister, The Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan. He said this visit was a historic moment which benefitted the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Mr An Kyong-hyon said he was happy to note that Lesotho people were firmly safeguarding their independence and sovereignty and expressed firm solidarity with the struggle of the South African people for freedom and independence, while resolutely repulsing the repeated pressures and interference of the South African racist regime. He said the Korean Government rejoiced with the Lesotho Government in developing their country and also mounting projects aimed at uplifting the livelihood of the people. He said he was happy to note that Lesotho recently severed diplomatic relations with South Korea, and this had greatly inspired the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In conclusion, he assured his majesty that the bonds of friendship and cooperation exisitng between Lesotho and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would grow from strength to strength for their mutual benefit.

MOZAMBIQUE

Sofala Party Leader Outlines Actions for 1984

MB090540 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Major General Marcelino dos Santos, member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau and leader of Sofala Province, has announced that next year every member of the provincial government will pick three or four districts where they will remain for a minimum of 15 days every 3 months. The same applies to district commissioners with regard to localities. Marcelino dos Santos was speaking in Beira the day before yesterday at the closing session of the expanded meeting of the Sofala provincial government which assessed the draft plan and budget for next year. Hailing the effort made by all sectors in the drafting of the plan, which is the first since the fourth congress was held, the Sofala leader said that it must constitute a strong instrument in the struggle against famine and the armed bandits. The meeting of the provincial government noted that the quality of work achieved in the drafting of the plan was due to the activities carried out by the brigades of this organ at the district level in gaining direct knowledge of the realities of every area.

NAMIBIA

Nujoma Says RSA Recruiting Western Mercenaries

MB090644 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1700 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] South Africa is recruiting mercenaries from the West to fight with its force in Namibia. That is the claim from SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma. Speaking to journalists in Harare, Nujoma said South Africa has set up what he calls a murder squad, consisting mainly of mercenaries, to kill people preaching politics to the local population. He says the republic is desperate to maintain its tight military and economic grip on Namibia. He says mercenaries are being recruited in Britain, Spain, Israel, Canada, West Germany, the United States, and Latin America. South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha has dismissed the claim. He calls it Nujoma's latest flight of fancy.

SOUTH AFRICA

Government Studying French Contact Group Decision

MB081210 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Information says the South African Government is studying the decision by the French Government to withdraw from the Contact Group of five nations formed in 1978 to negotiate independence for South-West Africa. Earlier, the French minister of foreign affairs, Mr Cheysson, announced that France would no longer attend the meetings of the Contact Group. He said in Paris that France had remained in the Contact Group at the request of several African countries. He said that the Angolan Government, in particular, had indicated that it was of the opinion that the Contact Group could no longer achieve anything.

Opposition Leader Calls French Decision 'Setback'

MB090958 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] The leader of the opposition, Dr van Zyl Slabbert, says the decision by France not to attend any more meetings of the Western Contact Group on South-West Africa is a setback to efforts to bring the territory to independence. Speaking in Bonn during his visit to Europe, Dr Slabbert said that the French decision had come as a surprise. The French foreign minister, Mr Claude Cheysson, had made no mention of it during their talks in Paris last week. Dr Slabbert said that the Progressive Federal Party [PFP] acknowledged that the Cuban presence in Angola was a stumbling block, largely because it was defined as such by all parties concerned in the South-West African question. He said he did not think that it had been South Africa that had first suggested linking the Cuban presence to indepndence for South-West Africa, although it had accepted the policy. He said the PFP believed that everything should be done to assist the implementation of the UN Resolution 435 as soon as possible. Earlier, it was reported that the other members of the Contact Group — the United States, Britain, West Germany, and Canada — were seeking urgent clarification of the French announcement. The South African Government has said it is still studying the French decision.

Police Release Names in Seychelles Coup Plot

MB081240 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1148 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 8, SAPA — The South African police [SAP] today released further details of a coup planned for the Seychelles, naming those detained earlier and saying the SAP had been investigating the case for several months.

One of the five men detained in connection with the South African link to the plot, British private investigator Mr Kenneth Williamson, had nothing to do with nipping the plot in the bud. His interference had actualy hampered the investigation, a police spokesman said in Pretoria.

"Some of those held had already been detained a week before his arrival in South Africa and no assistance or information was received from a woman living in Durban," he said, referring to earlier reports.

The spokesman said Mr Williamson was deported to Britian last Friday. Detained but released since were:

— Mr Garth John Mark Barret, a citizen of the republic and a former commanding officer of the Rhodesian SAS [Special Air Service];
— Mr George Arthur Lloyd, also a South African citizen, who was once attached to the Rhodesian Army;
— Mr John Dennis Nolan, a British subject and former member of the British SAS [Special Air Services]; and
— Mr Keith Cloete, an immigarnt from Zimbabwe and also a former member of the Rhodesian SAS.

In a brief statement issued last Friday, the minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, said security police were investigating "an alleged attempted recruitment of persons presently resident in South Africa as mercenaries to assist in the planning and implementation of a coup d'etat against the Government of the Seychelles."

According to information the police had, the plan was instigated on behalf of an organisation known as the Mouvement Pour la Resistance, by people living in Britain.

In December 1981, a group of mercenaries, including South Africans and Zimbabweans, staged an abortive coup attempt on the Indian Ocean island.

Today the police spokesman said: "as a result of the current speculation on the latest coup plot, and seeing the investigation has reached the stage where further information can be released, the South African police have decided to inform the public as far as possible of the true state of affairs."

But further details must be withheld for the time being as it had to be established whether recruitment of mercenaries was a contravention of the Defence Act, and to identify positively those involved and determine who the financiers and instigators of the plot were.

The police also wanted to find out why an attempt was made to advance via South Africa a coup planned overseas and whether foreign governments were involved.

"The interference of the British private investigator resulted in not all these goals being reached," the spokesman said.

A comprehensive dossier on the case was being prepared and would be submitted to the attorney-general for a decision.

Where applicable, residence permits of people involved could be reconsidered after his decision.

Reports and rumours of a training camp in South Africa in connection with the coup had proved false, the spokesman added.

Air Force Chief on Jet Crashes, Pilot Quality
MB081156 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1130 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 8, SAPA — Despite five major Impala jet crashes in the past 18 months, the SA Air Force's accident rate was still regarded as low and compared favourably with that of others, the chief of the SAAF, Lieutenant General Mike Muller, said in a press statement in Pretoria today.

He said the Impala accident rate in South Africa was 1.48 per 10,000 flying hours. "This figure is accepted as good and compares well with other air forces."

He added, however, that any accident was cause for concern and five Impala accidents in a relatively short period was viewed by the SAAF "in a very serious light."

But it was necessary to see the situation in perspective.

The Impala is one of the most important aircraft in commission in the SAAF and is used throughout the spectrum of flying, from advanced training prior to wings to post-wings operational training and, finally, in the optimum role — actual operations against the enemy.

The fighter environment required the ability to be able to fly the aircraft close to its limits under all combat situations.

"When one considers that these manoeuvres take place at speeds of up to 700 km/h, things happen very quickly and time to make decisions is very limited," General Muller said.

It was an "international phenomenon" that flying tended to have accident peaks. One of the peaks tended to be the first 500 hours.

"The junior fighter pilot has to become fully conversant in his role within these first 500 hours, which requires absolute dedication.

"That the odd lapse occurs is only human. Unfortunately, in the fighter environment, this lapse can prove fatal."

South Africa's fighter pilots compared with the best in the world, General Muller said.

He added that it was a "tribute to the calibre, selection and training" of South Africa's young fighter pilots that, in spite of the rigorous conditions under which they were trained, the country's accident rate remained as low as it was.

The SAAF did not accept these accidents as inevitable, however, and was continually striving to improve its flying safety record.

Police Say Explosion in Offices Caused by Mine
MB081412 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Last night's explosion in Johannesburg was caused by a limpet mine. That is according to police liaison officer Fred Bull.

Last night a bomb blast hit the offices of the department of cooperation and development in Johannesburg. In a statement just released by John Vorster Square Police Headquarters, Bull told of the results of police investigations so far:

[Begin Bull recording] From information received and the clues found at the scene of the explosion, it would appear that a limpet mine was placed in a wastepaper basket in the vicinity of the elevator near the steps on the third floor. Fairly extensive damage was caused to the interior of the building, and two white adult men who were in the building at the time of the explosion were overcome by fumes emanating from this explosion. They both received hospital treatment and were later discharged. [end recording]

He said it has not yet been established what group was responsible for the explosion and that investigations are continuing.

SWAZILAND

Envoy of Queen Regent To Pay Visit to Zambia
MB081948 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Princess Mnengwase will soon be visiting the Republic of Zambia on behalf of the queen mother and regent. According to the member of the Zambian Central Committee in charge of the Lusaka Province and elections, Mr Fines Bulawayo, Princess Mnengwase is expected at any time in Zambia on a state visit. He said this was agreed upon after he had telexed his president about his private visit to Swaziland. Mr Bulawayo was speaking during an official dinner held at the Ezulwini Convention Center yesterday evening at the Royal Swazi Spa, which was staged by the Supreme Council of State, Liqoqo, and was blessed by the presence of the Liqoqo members and cabinet ministers. Mr Bulawayo said the coming of Dr Kaunda to Swaziland during the jubilee, and his representation during his majesty's state funeral, meant that the two countries were friends. He said Swazis should know that Zambians consider Swaziland as their second home. Mr Bulawayo said his country was also grateful that they shared the same ideology with Swaziland in that they are nonracial countries. Another speaker was a member of the Liqoqo, Prince Mfanasibili, who deputized for Princess Mnengwase on behalf of the authorized person. Prince Mfanasibili also hailed the friendship of the two countries, saying Zambia and Swaziland are likened to man and his wife. He said the dynamism of both President Kenneth Kaunda and King Sobhuza II was responsible for the present leadership enjoyed by the two countries.

11 Charged in Alleged Coup Plot Appear in Court
MB090734 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 9 Dec 83 pp 1, 24

[By Mashumi Twala]

[Text] Three members of the Royal family, a chief and seven other people appeared briefly in court in Mbabane yesterday in connection with an alleged attempted coup. All 11 are charged

with high treason for allegedly plotting to overthrow the state by illegal means.

Appearing before Mbabane magistrate, Mr Sipho Zwane were: Prince Matatazela (King Sobhuza's son) and Princesses Ncane and Buyisile; Inkhosikati LaMndzebele (Prince Sulumlomo's wife); Chief Dambuza (Dean of Students' Affairs, University of Swaziland); The Rev. Gilbert Motsa of the Anglican Church; former Ngwane National Liberatory Congress official, Africa Mhlanga; Mrs Bonisile Belo (detained ex-judge Lukhele's daughter); Samson Dlamini; Petros Phungwane and Beauty Hlophe of the Central Bank.

They have been committed for trial in the High Court but a date has not been set. They were all remanded in custody.

They are alleged to have conspired jointly to depose the reigning Queen Regent Ntombi and have the Prime Minister, Prince Bhekimpi, and senior members of the Armed Forces (police and army) arrested.

A charge sheet read to the group claimed that the plot was hatched between September and November this year. It said the conspiracy took place in Lubombo, Manzini, and Hhohho districts where the accused stay.

Crown Counsel Daphne Ngubane explained that this was a holding charge against them.

After they were informed about their committal, they were told that they would be taken to the Sidwashini Prison to await trial.

Chief Dambuza said: "We are being referred to as accused. What is the charge against us?"

Mr Zwane read the charge sheet to him and explained that the director of public prosecutions had since asked that they be committed to the High Court.

He informed them that no date had been set for the trial and added that they could arrange with their lawyers to make bail applications.

The group was then escorted into police vans and taken to Sidwashini.

Former Party Official's Detention Ruled Illegal

MB071110 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 7 Dec 83 pp 1, 16

[Text] The detention of Mr Kislon Shongwe — a former official of the now defunct Ngwane National Liberatory Congress — is illegal, the chief justice said yesterday.

Mr Shongwe has been in police custody for 41 days, having been arrested on October 26. During his detention in Mbabane he has not been interviewed or interrogated by any police officer, nor has he been charged with any offence, according to an application for habeus corpus filed yesterday.

Chief Justice Nathan remarked: "The government has been dilatory in unlawfully detaining this person."

The application brought by Shongwe's attorneys — Matse, Earnshaw and Malinga — asked for his immediate release or, alternatively, for him to be charged without delay and for government to legalise his detention.

Mr David Smith, instructed by the firm, told the court that since the application was prepared Shongwe had been admitted to the Mbabane Government Hospital. He said Shongwe was a sickly man and would probably spend days in the hospital, under police custody.

Mr Justice Nathan postponed the hearing until this afternoon. He instucted the attorney general to consult the authorities concerned to determine whether or not Shongwe would be charged.

He said he had in mind to make an order to the government to show cause why Shongwe should not be released immediately. But, he said, in the interests of both parties, it was better to establish what the authorities intended to do.

Mr Smith said: "The authorities cannot just lock people up and forget about them. The court must show its displeasure at this."

Mr Justice Nathan: "We've talked about that before."

In affidavits before the court, Shongwe said when people raided his home they said they were looking for guns, explosives and subversive material.

He said they found law books, a letter written to the prime minister in 1979, and two unsigned and unpublished government gazettes.

He said he was placed at the station and an indication was made that he would be charged with sedition.

After that, he said he was never interviewed by any officer or charged.

ZAMBIA

Mozambique's Chissano Delivers Message to Kaunda

MB081150 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Mozambique's foreign minister has said that the United States is not ready to consider Namibia's independence in the right perspective, and France is withdrawing from the Western Contact Group. Joaquim Chissano was commenting in Lusaka yesterday on U.S. reaction to the recent Commonwealth summit, which rejected linking Namibian independence to Cuba's military presence in Angola. Mr Chissano accused the United States of implicitly blocking Namibia's independence by supporting South Africa's insistence on a Cuban troop withdrawal. Mr Chissano was delivering a message to Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda from President Samora Machel. Earlier, he had

delivered a message in Tanzania to President Julius Nyerere, the chairman of the frontline states, and was going on to Zimbabwe for a similar mission.

Departs for Zimbabwe

MB090630 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] Visiting Mozambique Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano left Lusaka for Harare today to deliver a special message from President Samora Machel to Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. Mr Chissano, who arrived in the country from Dar es Salaam yesterday on a similar mission, also delivered a special message to President Kaunda from Field Marshal Machel at State House last night. He said before departure that his visit to Zambia was successful. Mr Chissano was seen off at the international airport by Foreign Affairs Minister Professor Lameck Goma.

Botswana Vice President Arrives for SADCC Meeting

MB080900 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Dec 83

[Text] Botswana Vice President Peter Mmusi arrived in Lusaka today to attend the second Southern African Development Coordination Conference [SADCC] preparatory committee meeting. The meeting will review ongoing preparations for the SADCC conference to be held in Lusaka early next year. Mr Mmusi, who is also Botswana's finance and development planning minister, was met on arrival at Lusaka International Airport by the party secretary general, Humphrey Mulemba; Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia; and several other senior state officials. He will chair the preparatory meeting in his capacity as chairman of the SADCC Council of Ministers.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Discusses Mozambique Ties, One-Party State

MB080610 Maputo TEMPO in Portuguese 20 Nov 83 pp 30-35

[Interview with Prime Minister Robert Mugabe conducted in Harare by Professor Aquino de Braganca, director of the African Studies Center of Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo, and journalist Alves Gomes; date not given]

[Text] Question: Prime Minister, 2 weeks ago you were in Maputo where you met with President Samora Machel for more than 5 hours. We would like you to tell us if anything new was dealt with during that meeting?

Answer: There was nothing new in the visit. When there is a matter of interest to both countries we meet, and lately we have done so frequently.

Question: So that meeting was related to the visits you have made to several Western countries?

Answer: Yes. This time we made a critical assessment of our visits to the West. As you know, I visited the United States, Canada, and Ireland, and President Samora has been in the Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, Yugoslavia, France, and Britain. Together we covered a good part of the West. Exchanging reflections about these trips was imperative. That was the major issue of our last meeting.

Question: And was military cooperation between the two countries also part of the meeting's agenda?

Answer: Our coordination of efforts against the common enemy is constant. Our defense and security officials meet regularly. Last year President Samora and his assistants in this sector came to Harare, and we fully discussed questions of the security of our two countries and our region. It was during this fruitful meeting that we defined the broad guidelines for this area of our cooperation.

Question: After Lancaster House, Western media claimed to have "discovered" in the Zimbabwean prime minister a moderate leader who respected the ethics of the "free world," that is, the West. Moreover, those same observers viewed the Mozambique Government and President Samora as "Eastern clients" and, curiously, today they have discovered that "he is moving closer to the West while abandoning his historic allies." What is your comment?

Answer: The West has always been consistent in its erroneous judgments about us. And we are consistent with our principles. We tell the truth.

Yesterday, when we were struggling with weapons in our hands, the West presented me as a monster, an inveterate racist, a hard and bitter man. After our independence, they had the opportunity to know us closer, to see us operating and stating our principled stands in a positive manner as far as they were concerned. This surprised them because the caricature that they had created was wrong. And they thought that we were subordinating ourselves to the West, forgetting that we were establishing sovereign relations on an equal basis rather than selling out our sovereignty.

Some raised their expectations. They thought that in view of the fact that they were giving us aid we would break with our past, with our socialist option, with our anti-imperialist stands.

They made illogical and incoherent assessments. When, for instance, the Soviet Union delayed the establishment of diplomatic relations with us they thought that we were progressively moving toward the West.

Question: An image that, in the meantime, has been broken?

Answer: When they saw us acting in Zimbabwe in a socialist perspective, involved in the process of national reconstruction, they became critical and took advantage of various pretexts — the detention of the Air Force officers (in the sabotage of the airplanes in Gweru), or the operations carried out by the 5th Brigade, which they do not like only because it was trained by the Koreans.

They took advantage of these instances to engage in malevolent criticism. Thus, the Angolo-Saxon press, orchestrated by the British Government, has been attacking us for allegedly violating human rights.

Some even go to the extent of identifying me with the sad Idi Amin — such as in Geneva (conference) when they called me the "black Hitler."

At the United Nations we have voted sometimes on the side of the Americans. However, today, because we abstained from voting on the Korean plane issue and, even worse, because we were cosponsors of a resolution on Grenada and Nicaragua condemning Washington, the United States is upset. They cannot understand us because they considered that our established relationship was of a subordinate, client nature.

In the case of President Samora Machel, the logic that has inspired the judgments is no different. Erroneously, they took him as a "Soviet client." All this because they did not want to take into consideration the historic relations that were established with the Soviet Union during the war. And because after independence such relations were maintained, they regarded Mozambique as being in the Eastern orbit.

Today, when the West recognizes its mistakes, the observers are ready to consider the Mozambique stance as one of disengagement with regard to the Soviet Union. That is the explanation for "Samora moving toward the West."

They continue the distortions.

Tomorrow, when they see that the friendship with the Soviet Union has been maintained after all, and that there are no deviations in matters of principle, they will show disenchantment.

Nevertheless, I am satisfied with the initiative that has been taken by President Samora Machel. It opens new horizons to Mozambique and strengthens the necessary isolation of the apartheid regime.

Question: The common enemy of Mozambique and Zimbabwe?

Answer: Of course. The apartheid regime constitutes a great threat to our region: A threat to Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Angola, where it still occupies a significant part of the territory, a threat to Lesotho, and to all the Southern African Development Coordination Conference countries, because they refuse to be bantustans in the service of Pretoria.

Question: Up until recently the South Africans wanted to make one believe that the armed destabilization within Zimbabwe was restricted to the Zimbabwe African People's Union dissidents. Has the arrest of Bishop Muzorewa brought to light a dimension of the South African operation that the Zimbabwe Government has tried to expose since independence?

Answer: One must not forget that South Africa supported at all costs the illegal and racist regime of Ian Smith. When the regime disguised itself under the Zimbabwe-Rhodesia formula, the Pretoria regime strengthened its financial and military involvement. At the time when the 1980 free elections were held, the South Africans were still inside our territory....

Immediately after Muzorewa lost the elections, reports reached us saying that he had sent 5,000 men to training camps in South Africa.

At the time we accused Muzorewa of planning a coup d'etat with South African support. He came to speak to me personally to deny the reports. Because of the spirit of reconciliation which we practiced after the formation of my government, we believed what he was saying. We insisted, however, that he give us guarantees that he would not resume his links with South Africa. The bishop accepted, saying that he entertained no links with those refugee elements in South Africa, whom, he said, were not controlled by his organization.

Today, we find out that he lied. His subversion plan was still alive. Under the pretext of fulfilling duties of his mission, he frequently visited Zaire and the United States with stopovers in South Africa. We knew that in South Africa he maintained crucial contacts with his former masters. In Zaire he held contacts and had talks to organize intense subversive activity against my government in collusion with Israel, with which Mobutu entertains diplomatic and military relations in disregard of OAU resolutions.

Now he was in a new phase of his activities which required his presence in Israel under the pretext of carrying out "studies on the Bible."

In the meantime, the infiltration of former "auxiliaries" into our country has increased. We also note that they operate within a joint strategy with former Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army elements to destabilize not only Zimbabwe, but also Mozambique, where they have been operating for some years now.

We saw ourselves compelled to arrest Muzorewa. We forgave his past and his crimes against the Zimbabwean people, but we cannot go on living together with someone who allies himself with the enemy.

Question: And the dissidents of the so-called "super-ZAPU"?

Answer: "Super-ZAPU" is a South African creation within the old ZAPU. They propose a new strategy to regain the image that has been created by the ZIPRA dissidents, who were not trained [ZIPRA que nao foram treinados] in South Africa and who murder and torture many civilians. They present themselves as opponents of this kind of action by using arms of socialist "origin," although with manufacture numbers different from the original ones.

Question: Do these ZAPU elements have links other than those with South Africa?

Answer: Not yet, although some of their leaders are outside the country. Some initially fled to Zambia. This is the case with

Akhim Ndholovu, who later went to Scandinavia. They, however, say that their leader is in Botswana. It is somebody called Wela.

Question: During the liberation struggle, progressive and anti-imperialist forces supported ZAPU, led by Joshua Nkomo. A significant part of these forces withdrew their support after Zimbabwe's independence. Are there still exceptions?

Answer: In fact, a great number of the socialist European countries supported ZAPU. I would like to believe that they reviewed their relations with this organization. They were disenchanted with the equivocal attitudes of Joshua Nkomo, although I think that they still admire him....

Question: Going back to South Africa. How does the apartheid regime use the Muzorewa "auxiliaries" and the former Nkomo ZIPRA forces as tools?

Answer: In some cases such forces are jointly trained and infiltrated into our territory, taking into consideration ethnic and linguistic factors. They do not send non-Ndebele speaking people to Matabeleland.

Moreover, they also seek to provoke a conflict between Botswana and us. With the exception of those who are directly infiltrated across the South African border, and these are only a few, the majority uses the Botswana border.

Question: The activities of the 5th Brigade in Matabeleland have been the object of severe criticism from Western observers who say that atrocities have been committed against the defenseless population. Will you comment?

Answer: The 5th Brigade has been deliberately trained by our Korean friends because part of our Army needed to have the proper political outlook. It comprises primarily former Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army combatants, but it also includes about 300 ZIPRA elements.

When we sent the 5th Brigade to Matabeleland north its objectives were not solely based upon the use of arms. In the armed struggle, for example, its performance is political while working together with the people in order to gain their support.

It is true that countless critics against the 5th Brigade have emerged, accusing it of being extremely harsh and of violating human rights. For this reason we have created a commission of inquiry in order to investigate such alleged atrocities. However, I think there is a great deal of exaggeration by our critics. A few incidents might have taken place in situations which cannot be avoided in war. The truth, however, is that the 5th Brigade has transformed itself into a friend whom the people count on. When we withdrew it from Matabeleland the people came to ask us for the return of the brigade, with the aim of putting an end to the dissident activity which had resumed, and we had to send the 5th Brigade back to those areas.

Question: Recently ZANU achieved the first victory in the local elections in Matabeleland. To what do you attribute this success in an area which is traditionally favorable to ZAPU?

Answer: ZANU has destroyed the myth that in Zimbabwe there were two parties with an ethnic base of support.

We do not let the 5th Brigade operate in isolation, and we sent our ministers to explain to the people that ours is a national government that acts to serve the interests of all the people. This is the government that is going to guarantee more schools, more medical services, roads, water, land for the people, and food for the needy — a popular government.

As a result of this process, the people have begun to understand the disadvantages of supporting ZAPU and the advantages of supporting ZANU and have begun to enroll themselves as members of the party.

Question: What future is there for the political parties in this country, taking into consideration that ZANU defends its establishment as the only party of Zimbabwe?

Answer: We believe in the one-party principle, but we realize that in these first years of independence we must first consolidate national sovereignty and seek unity with all patriots. The creation of a one-party state cannot be accomplished only through administrative methods.

We had to accept a constitution which does not correspond to the genuine wishes of the people. The Lancaster House constitution forces us to accommodate nondemocratic forces, such as those of Ian Smith and Abel Muzorewa.

Since independence many miniparties that had emerged only to contest the elections have been dissolving themselves without being banned by us. The support that the people give us has given them the chance of disappearing peacefully.

We have created a basis of national unity among all forces that respects national sovereignty and the country's independence. However, we feel that it is now necessary to make a new move. At this moment we are organizing our party, which today is still a mass organization.

We are creating viable bodies in each of the provinces, district after district and town after town. As we are doing this, we are at the same time removing the bases of other parties, giving ZANU a much broader and popular character.

We are creating women's leagues so as to organize women. After this it will be the turn of the youth to be organized.

Question: Why women first?

Answer: Men are more thoughtful, less active, and more commanding....

Question: You are preparing for the Second ZANU Congress. What steps will you take before it is convened?

Answer: We shall first hold the women's congress, after that the youth congress, and only after this will we hold the national congress. From now until the congress we want to assess the

efficience of our organization. We want to organize the party, register its members, and so forth.

Question: Will the second congress discuss the one-party issue?

Answer: We shall submit to the congress a draft resolution on the creation of a one-party sytem. After the congress there will be general elections throughout the country, which we will naturally win. Then we will move toward one Marxist-Leninist party.

Question: To what mechanisms will the creation of one-party be subject?

Answer: We will be loyal to the principles that we have been defending since the proclamation of our independence, and we will discuss this issue with ZAPU, our allies. We think that ZAPU must be accommodated and this will lead to methods of accomplishing this without, however, entailing our acceptance of its exaggerated demands of equality.

The formation of one party will mean the popular acceptance of our parties and here we must take into account that ZAPU is a minority party.

Question: From the internal point of view and taking into account the qualitatively new phase which independence brought to the party, what problems are facing ZANU today?

Answer: After the war there were many new problems. Many contradictions came to the surface — love for riches, leaders with property transforming themselves into bourgeois elements. Some leaders want to wear the shoes of a national bourgeoisie.

Within the Central Committee we have been discussing these issues. We agree that no leader must have property, although we have considered the cases of those who want to have a bit of land to work, for example, if somebody is building a house, he must not do it on an area exceeding 20 acres [as published]. But we shall not allow a leader to have 1,000 or 2,000 hectares.

After political liberation, it is only natural that there should be new contradictions within the national movement and among the people. However, we are prepared to face these challenges and guide the people to the correct political line. Those who may wish to side with the settlers will face the consequences.

Question: A white referendum has been held in South Africa for the creation of a three-race parliament. What is your opinion on this sham concession by the apartheid regime?

Answer: As the Zimbabwe-Rhodesia elections of Muzorewa, which involved more people and were much broader, did not settle problems, I cannot see how this maneuver will solve the apartheid problem in South Africa.

Democracy must be extended to everybody at once. We do not believe that democracy can exist in bits. You cannot have a part of the population accepting something and the crushing majority rejecting it. It is an insoluble contradiction....

Deputy Premier on Success of Reconciliation Policy

MB080920 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 8 Dec 83

[Text] The policy of reconciliation has been successful, and through it the foundation of the nationhood of Zimbabwe has been irrevocably laid. This was said by the deputy prime minister, Comrade Simon Muzenda, in an interview with the *ZIMBABWE NEWS*, the official organ of ZANU-PF. Comrade Muzenda said the policy of reconciliation has been a great Zimbabwean experiment, which has seen the majority of former enemies reconciled. He added that those who have refused to respond to the government's hand of friendship have found themselves deprived of the benefit of reconciliation.

Dissident Arson, ZANU-ZAPU Clash Reported

MB090659 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 9 Dec 83

[Text] The minister of water resources and development, Comrade Cephas Msipa, has urged peasants in the Beitbridge district to be more vigilant and to report suspicious characters to the police. His call came after the destruction on Monday of government property worth more than $90,000. The government spokesman has confirmed that the property was burned down by dissidents in the Bendele communal land. The property included a driller, a tractor, and a trailer. At least 10 people have been arrested in connection with clashes between ZANU-PF and ZAPU supporters in Harare's Dzivaresekwa residential area during the weekend. A police spokesman said a group of ZAPU supporters armed with bricks, iron bars, and sticks attacked the owner of a house in the area on Wednesday, seriously injuring him. The victim has been admitted to Parirenyatwa hospital. Investigations are continuing.